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PART IV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS

IN

THE HERZEGOVINA.

June 28 to July 31, 1876.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Consul Reade ..	9	June 18, 1876	Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks in Bulgaria. Atrocities committed, and consternation of the inhabitants	1
2	To Sir H. Elliot ..	425	28,	Extract from "Daily News" of 23rd instant reporting atrocities in Bulgaria. Request to inquire into the matter	2
3	Consul Kirby Green ..	26	19,	Opposition shown by Roman Catholics of Scutari to serving in proposed auxiliary irregular force	5
4	Consul Blunt ..	37	22,	Proclamation of the Governor-General of Salonica intended to pacify the interior of Macedonia	6
5	Lord Lyons ..	478	29,	Proposed warnings to Servia against declaring war	8
6	„ „ ..	479	30,	Impression of the French Government that Montenegro would desert Servia, and subsequent change of opinion	8
7	„ „ ..	480	30,	French Government desire sketches of notes for an identical communication from the Great Powers to the Porte to be strictly confidential	9
8	„ „ ..	483	30,	Embarrassments of Roumania respecting the neutrality of the Danube	9
9	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	July 1,	Reports that Russian Consul at Ragusa has advised his Government to allow Austria to annex Bosnia	10
10	Consul-General White	Telegraphic	1,	Servia has practically declared war	10
11	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	1,	Has recommended a conciliatory policy towards Roumania. Ammunition has passed through Roumania to Servia	10
12	Sir C. Sebright ..	Telegraphic	1,	Transport of arms and ammunition to Montenegro	10
13	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	1,	Communications between Servia and Turkey. Impending war	10
14	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	1,	Count Andrassy agrees to a joint warning to Servia if the other Powers join ..	11
15	Mr. Macdonnell ..	Telegraphic	1,	German Government agree to a joint warning, but fear it is too late	11
16	Mr. Malet	Telegraphic	1,	Italian Government have telegraphed to Belgrade	11
17	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	1,	The Austrian force on the Bosnian and Servian frontiers will not at present be increased	11
18	To Lord A. Loftus ..	396	1,	Her Majesty's Government will pursue policy of non-intervention	11
19	Mr. Wyndham ..	147	June 24,	Proposed advance of money to the Greek Government, and intended purchase of arms by the latter	12
20	Mr. Monson ..	Telegraphic	July 2,	Declaration of war by Montenegro	12
21	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	2,	Servian troops have crossed the frontier. Montenegro has declared war	12
22	Consul-General White	Telegraphic	2,	Proclamation of Prince Milan	12
23	Mr. Monson ..	65	June 25,	Disavowal by Russian Government of M. de Wessilitzky	13
24	„ „ ..	66	25,	Distress of the refugees in Ragusa	13
25	Sir A. Buchanan ..	417	26,	Austrian suggestions respecting negotiations between Porte and Montenegro	14
26	„ „ ..	418	26,	Her Majesty's Government's satisfaction at Count Andrassy's having insisted on unconditional promise from Prince of Montenegro to assist in pacifying the insurrection ..	14
27	„ „ ..	419	28,	Communications with Count Andrassy respecting proposed policy between Servia and Montenegro and Turkey	15
28	Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan	99	26,	Hungarian public opinion in favour of strict neutrality and preserving the integrity of Turkey	16

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
29	Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan	100	June 27, 1876	Slav agitation on the Southern frontier of Hungary	16
30	Mr. Macdonnell ..	292	30,	Communications with Count Carolyi on the subject of the insurrection in Turkey	16
31	„ „ ..	295	July 1,	German Government will press for the heaviest possible sentences on the culprits at Salonica	17
32	The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	2,	Declaration of war by Servia	18
33	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	3,	Reported arms and ammunition at Corfu destined for Montenegro, &c.	18
34	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	3,	Imperial troops have defeated Servians at Widdin, and taken Saitchar	18
35	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	3,	Report from Nisch that Servians have crossed frontier, and fighting is going on. Reinforcements asked for	19
36	Consul Holmes ..	Telegraphic	3,	Montenegro has declared war; fighting near Nisch	19
37	Mr. Malet	Telegraphic	3	In reply to solemn warning, Servian Foreign Minister said that the die was cast	19
38	Consul Blunt ..	Telegraphic	3,	Montenegrin declaration of war. They have been defeated at Podgoritza	19
39	Consul Holmes ..	19	June 23,	Moukhtar Pasha has reached Nichsich without opposition	19
40	Mr. Monson ..	64	23,	Arrival of the "Times" correspondent. Influence that he can command	20
41	„ „ ..	67	26,	Warlike preparations of Montenegro	20
42	„ „ ..	68	27,	Details of the revictualling of Nichsich; reported fighting near Nevesinje	21
43	Sir A. Buchanan ..	423	July 1,	Extracts from letters from Belgrade reporting proceedings of the Government, and condition of the country	21
44	Duc Decazes to Marquis d'Harcourt	..	3,	Apprehensions of the Roumanian Government, and question of the neutrality of the Danube	23
45	Consul Holmes ..	Telegraphic	4,	Commander-in-chief arrived from Mostar; fighting with the Servians	24
46	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	4,	Turkish victory reported at Shackheni, near Nisch	24
47	Consul Holmes ..	Telegraphic	4,	Reported defeats of Servians and Montenegrins	24
48	Consul-General White.	Telegraphic	4,	Reported success of General Tchernaieff	24
49	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	4,	Greek Government have requested return of the King	25
50	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	4,	Is Count Andrassy to see Lord Derby's note to Count Schouvaloff of 29th ultimo?	25
51	To Sir A. Buchanan .	317	4,	Approve language held to Count Andrassy, reported in his despatch No. 419.	25
52	„ „ .	318	4,	Neutrality of the Danube. Conversation of Count Andrassy with Turkish Ambassador.	25
53	„ „ ..	319	4,	Views of the Austrian Government respecting the future constitution of the insurgent provinces	26
54	To Lord A. Loftus ..	339	4,	Approves advice to Cabouly Pasha, reported in his despatch No. 277 .	26
55	To Sir H. Elliot ..	422	4,	Approves language to Grand Vizier respecting cruelties in Bulgaria, reported in his despatch No. 644	26
56	Consul Kirby Green ..	27	June 24,	Complete revictualling of Nichsich without opposition	27
57	To Lord O. Russell ..	508	July 5,	Attitude of Her Majesty's Government towards Turkish insurrection to be explained to Prince Bismarck	27
58	To Sir A. Buchanan ..	321	5,	To communicate to Count Andrassy the note to Count Schouvaloff of the 29th ultimo	27
59	Mr. Monson ..	69	June 28,	Condition of Herzegovinian refugees at Ragusa	28
60	Sir A. Buchanan ..	427	July 2,	Extract from letter from Belgrade; preparations for war	28
61	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	6,	Count Andrassy's thanks for Lord Derby's note to Count Schouvaloff	29
62	Consul-General White.	Telegraphic	6,	Servian official bulletins. Nothing decisive	29
63	Consul Blunt ..	38	June 23,	Translation of Circular from the Pasha of Salonica to subordinate Governors dictating their policy, referred to in his No. 37	29
64	„ „ ..	39	23,	Large reinforcements and ammunition going to Novi-Bazar. Copy of despatch to Sir H. Elliot	30
65	„ „ ..	42	26,	Proclamation by the Grand Vizier, counselling harmony to Bulgarians and Mahomedans. Sends copy and translation	31

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
66	Consul Blunt ..	43	June 27, 1876	Circular telegram from Porte to provincial authorities respecting expenses forced on it	32
67	Sir H. Elliot ..	654	22,	Uneasiness at Russian Embassy. Arises probably from the personal feeling against General Ignatieff	32
68	„ „ ..	660	24,	Anxiety of Austrian Government to detach Montenegro from Servia. Advice to Porte	33
69	„ „ ..	661	24,	Preparations against Servia, from whom an attack seems imminent	33
70	„ „ ..	664	24,	Midhat Pasha's views on reform	34
71	„ „ ..	665	24,	Extract from Consul Holmes' letter respecting reported insults to foreign Consuls, and apprehensions as to the insurrection	35
72	„ „ ..	667	25,	Italian Government's advice to the Porte to withdraw troops from the Servian frontier, and reply of the Grand Vizier	35
73	„ „ ..	669	26,	Communications between General Ignatiew and Safvet Pasha respecting concentration of troops on Servian frontier	36
74	„ „ ..	670	26,	Reported successful revictualling of Nichsich	36
75	„ „ ..	671	26,	Pacific Proclamation of the Grand Vizier to the Christian and Mahommedan population of Bulgaria	37
76	„ „ ..	674	26,	Grand Vizier's telegram to Prince of Montenegro, thanking him for his efforts to preserve neutrality	38
77	„ „ ..	676	26,	French and German Ambassadors press for capital punishment on accused at Salonica	39
78	„ „ ..	679	28,	Proposed Turkish constitution; conversation of Sir A. Kemball with Namyk Pasha	40
79	„ „ ..	680	28,	Hostile attitude of the Greek Government; difficulties in Crete	41
80	„ „ ..	686	29,	Exasperation and difficult position of General Ignatiew	42
81	„ „ ..	689	29,	Safvet Pasha's thanks for friendly attitude of British Government; immediate adoption of reforms	42
82	Consul-General White	73		Prince of Servia's letter to Grand Vizier; statement of grievances preparatory to declaring war.	43
83	Mr. Malet . ..	257	July 3,	Italian Government have given pacific advice to Servia; the latter decline to follow it	45
84	Consul Sir C. Sebright	6	4,	Documents in the hands of Couemenos Bey relating to purchase of battery of mountain guns by Prince of Montenegro	45
85	Sir A. Buchanan ..	434	4,	Probability of war between Turkey and Montenegro; Interview with Count Andrassy respecting closing of Cattaro and Klek, &c.	46
86	„ „ ..	435	4,	Interview with Count Andrassy respecting prospects of Servo-Turkish war; possible autonomy of insurgent provinces	47
87	„ „ ..	436	4,	Anxiety of Roumania at prospect of Turkish gun-boats proceeding up the Danube	48
88	„ „ ..	437	4,	Article in the "Neue Freie Presse;" strength of forces of Montenegro, Servia, and Turkey, and probable operations	48
89	Consul Blunt ..	Telegraphic	7,	Advance of Servians down the valley of Ibar	49
90	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	7,	Reported victory over Servians north of Novi-Bazar	49
91	Consul Kirby Green ..	29	June 27,	Moukhtar Pasha has commenced operations for revictually block-houses in Duga Pass	49
92	Consul Reade ..	10	July 1,	Relations of Roumania and Turkey; concentration of troops towards Servian frontier	50
93	Mr. Wyndham ..	151	June 28,	Warning to Hellenic Government from Germany. Purchase of arms by the former	51
94	Sir A. Buchanan ..	441	July 5,	Extract of letter from Belgrade; Prince Milan's relations with his Ministers, and Servian intrigues	51
95	„ „ ..	443	5,	Extract from article in the "Lloyd of Pesth;" Austrian decorations conferred on Russians show confidence in Russia's intentions in the East	53
96	„ „ ..	444	5,	Language of principal Vienna journals on Servian and Montenegrin declarations of war	53
97	To Mr. Malet ..	387	8,	Italian intentions of non-intervention	54
98	Mr. St. John ..	68	June 28,	Roumanian apprehensions as to Turkish vessels ascending the Danube	54

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
98*	Mr. Monson ..	70	June 30, 1876	Allowance to refugees for subsistence will be continued	55
99	" " ..	71	30,	M. Yonine's views on the situation	55
100	Sir A. Buchanan ..	445	July 6,	Arrest on charge of high treason of Miletus, leader of Slav Party in Hungarian Diet, at Neusatz	56
101	Consul-General White.	Telegraphic	9,	Indecisive fighting between Servians and Turks	56
102	Mr. St. John ..	Telegraphic	9,	British Government's intervention requested concerning neutrality of Danube	56
103	Lord A. Loftus ..	289	June 26,	Prince of Montenegro declines to mediate with insurgents, and will probably declare war ..	56
104	" " ..	292	July 2,	Possibility of Russian and Austrian annexation of Turkish provinces	57
105	" " ..	297	5,	Roumanian anxiety respecting the neutrality of the Danube	57
106	" " ..	298	5,	Solemn warning to be addressed to Servia ..	58
107	" " ..	302	5,	Russian Press endeavours to throw on England responsibility of Servo-Turkish war; and to stimulate Europe against Turkey	58
108	" " ..	303	5,	Concentration of Russian troops in Bessarabia .	62
109	Mr. Macdonell ..	299	7,	German Government will abstain from intervention in Turkey	62
110	" " ..	300	7,	German Press. Articles and pamphlets hostile to England	62
111	" " ..	301	8,	Reported Servian purchase of Krupp guns ..	64
112	Mr. St. John ..	Telegraphic	9,	Porte consents to neutrality of Danube, if passage of arms through Roumania is strictly prohibited	65
113	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	10,	Russian bills of exchange for 9,000*l.* sent to Trieste for Russian Consul at Ragusa ..	65
114	" " ..	Telegraphic	10,	Satisfactory interview of the Emperors at Reichstadt	65
115	Consul Holmes ..	20	June 30,	Despatch to Sir H. Elliot suggesting total change of administration is Bosnia ..	65
116	Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan	101	July 3,	Hungarian public opinion against Servia ..	68
117	" " ..	102	4,	Austrian monitors on the Lower Danube, and movement of troops to her southern frontier	69
118	" " ..	103	4,	Prohibition of agitations and subscriptions for the Servians	69
119	" " ..	104	5,	Arrest of and proceedings against M. Miletus .	69
120	Mr. Monson ..	73	4,	Movements of M. Yonine, and proceedings of Montenegro	70
121	" " ..	74	4,	Austrian neutrality in the Bocche di Cattaro; requests of the Turkish Consul-General ..	70
122	To Sir H. Elliot ..	430	11,	Approves message to Prince of Montenegro as reported in his despatch No. 660 ..	71
123	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	11,	Alarming reports about the Sultan's health ..	71
124	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	11,	Satisfactory meeting of Austrian and Russian Emperors; non-intervention to be maintained	71
125	Consul-General White.	75	3,	Martial law proclaimed in Servia; enactments of the Skouptschina	71
126	" " ..	76	4,	Proclamation of the Prince of Servia on declaring war	72
127	" " ..	77	4,	Advance of the Servian troops beyond the frontier	74
128	Lord Lyons ..	514	11,	Satisfactory result of meeting between Russian and Austrian Emperors. Lukewarmness of Montenegro; probably restrained by Russia .	74
129	" " ..	515	11,	Duc Decazes thinks Turks have the advantage over the Servians	75
130	" " ..	517	11,	Roumanian grievances against the Porte, Roumanian Agent and the Duc Decazes ..	75
131	Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff	..	May 14,	Views of Russian Government on Turkish affairs	75
132	The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	July 11,	Turkish Government consents to neutralization of Danube if Roumania prohibits passage of arms	77
133	To Lord Lyons ..	683	12,	Neutrality of the Danube; inability of Turkish iron-clads to proceed up the river . ..	77
134	" " ..	684	12,	Russian plan of autonomy for the insurgent provinces	77
135	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	11,	Bad state of Turkish revenue, &c. Distrust of capacity of Generals	78
136	" " ..	Telegraphic	11,	Porte will refuse demands of Roumania; the latter should be discouraged from presenting them formally..	78

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
137	To Sir H. Elliot .	Telegraphic	July 12, 1876	To report information respecting alleged atrocities in Bulgaria	78
138	Consul Holmes ..	Telegraphic	12,	Line to Vishegrad has been cut and since repaired. Reported defeat of Servians ..	78
139	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	12,	Closing of Klek; arms for Montenegro to be stopped at Cattaro	79
140	To Sir H. Elliot ..	433	13,	Extracts from "Daily News" on reported Bulgarian atrocities. Instructions to report on them, and to warn the Porte	79
141	" " ..	Telegraphic	13,	Extract from "Daily News;" reports further atrocities in Bulgaria. Instructions to inquire of Consuls, and report	86
142	" " ..	437	13,	Bulgarian atrocities; Her Majesty's Government wait intelligence as to truth of above reports	87
143	Consul Sandwith ..	20	June 25,	Final address of Christian Deputies of the General Cretan Assembly to Réouf Pasha. Report of fresh panic at Rethymo . ..	87
144	Mr. Monson ..	72	July 2,	Prince of Montenegro has declared war, and left for the field. M. Yonine will accompany the Prince	89
145	Sir H. Elliot ..	691	June 30,	Grand Vizier has received letter from Prince of Servia enumerating complaints against Porte, and asking for cession of Bosnia . ..	90
146	" " ..	693	July 1,	Roumanian demand for neutrality of Danube, and wish of the Porte for prohibition of passage of arms through Roumania ..	90
147	" " ..	695	1,	Reply which he recommends Porte to send to Servia	91
148	" " ..	697	2,	Servian troops have crossed the frontier; Montenegro has declared war . ..	91
149	" " ..	700	2,	Fighting on the frontier; reinforcements asked for	91
150	" " ..	701	3,	General Ignatiew, finding hostile feeling against himself and his Government, leaves Servia to take her own course	92
151	" " ..	702	3,	The Porte dreads prospect of an European Conference. Possibility of its occurring .	92
152	" " ..	704	3,	Viceroy of Egypt has sent to congratulate Sultan Murad	92
153	" " ..	705	4,	Austrian-Servian volunteers have crossed the frontier; Austrian force insufficient to stop them	92
154	" " ..	706	4,	Statement of the force and distribution of the Turkish army..	92
155	" " ..	713	5,	Viceroy of Egypt has sent two regiments for the war	95
156	" " ..	714	5,	Account of conversation between a Greek gentleman and General Ignatiew	96
157	" " ..	715	6,	Abdi Pasha, an energetic commander, appointed over the Bashi-Bazouks..	96
158	" " ..	716	6,	Consul Dupuis' reports on Bulgarian atrocities, which have a basis of truth, though much exaggeration	97
159	" " ..	717	6,	Marked improvement in public security in Bulgaria; disarmament of Mussulmans ..	100
160	" " ..	718	6,	Porte replies to Prince Milan's letter, that an answer is unnecessary, Servia having commenced hostilities	100
161	" " ..	719	6,	Inquiry into Russian Consul's proceedings at Philippopoli; he has been superseded ..	100
162	" " ..	720	6,	Report of Mr. Sandison on supposed conspiracy against Sultan and his Ministers. Embarrassments of Government, and illness of Sultan	100
163	" " ..	721	6,	Has advised Safvet Pasha against revoking Prince Milan's Firman of Investiture	101
164	Mr. Wyndham ..	153	4,	Transmission of arms from Corfu to Montenegro	102
165	" " ..	155	5,	Excitement at Athens on news of war. Difficult position of the Government increased by articles in the press	102
166	" " ..	156	5,	Duc Decazes advises Greece to remain quiet ..	104
167	Sir A. Buchanan ..	446	6,	Roumanian Government deny that arms have passed through to Servia. Neutrality of the Danube	104

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
168	Sir A. Buchanan ..	451	July 6, 1876	Interview with Count Andrassy respecting the insurrection and war. Views of the English and Russian Governments	105
169	„ „ ..	459	11,	Despatch from British Vice-Consul at Fiume. Reports of torpedoes furnished to Bosnian insurgents by Russia are unfounded ..	105
170	„ „ ..	460	11,	Reception of Emperor Alexander by Austrian Emperor at Bodenbach and Reichstadt ..	106
171	„ „ ..	464	11,	Count Andrassy unwilling to enter on discussions as to course to be adopted in certain contingencies. Interview with Prince Gortchakow satisfactory	107
172	„ „ ..	462	11,	No news of importance from Servian frontier ..	107
173	„ „ ..	463	11,	Fighting reported; 3,000 Austrian subjects said to have joined Montenegrins	108
174	Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	13,	Protest against the closing of Klek	108
175	Ditto	Telegraphic	13,	To bring the subject of the closing of Klek before Lord Derby and request his views ..	108
176	Mr. Malet	Telegraphic	14,	Turkish remonstrances against the closing of Klek	109
177	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	14,	Painful impression on the Porte of the closing of Klek	109
178	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	14,	To urge on the Porte the necessity for repressing outrages, and stopping sale of women and children	109
179	.. .. .	438	14,	Substance as above	109
180	To Vice-Consul Dupuis	Telegraphic	14,	Reports of gross atrocities in Bulgaria. To inquire and report	110
181	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	14,	Has instructed Consul at Adrianople to proceed to Philippopolis and inquire into reported atrocities	110
182	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	14,	Fighting of Servians and Montenegrins ..	110
183	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	14,	Reports of atrocities exaggerated. Will make every possible inquiry	110
184	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	14,	Volunteers for service against Servia. Loyalty of the Christians	111
185	Consul Holmes ..	Telegraphic	14,	Repulse of Montenegrins near Zalom confirmed	111
186	Consul Kirby Green ..	33	4,	Reports respecting commencement of hostilities between Turks, Servians and Montenegrins.	111
187	„ „ ..	34	4,	Position of Turkish forces, and preparations for hostilities with Montenegro	112
188	Consul Blunt ..	45	3,	Military preparations in district of Salonica ..	112
189	„ „ ..	46	5,	Excitement of the Mussulmans, and military preparations	113
190	„ „ ..	47	6,	State of affairs at Pristina. Christians in terror of the Bashi-Bazouks	114
191	„ „ ..	48	6,	Engagement near Podgoritza between Turks and Montenegrins. Summary of.. ..	115
192	Mr. Malet	263	12,	Views of Italian Government on Turkish affairs	116
193	Consul Sir C. Sebright	7	11,	Agitation in Corfu. Reports respecting ..	116
194	Lord Lyons ..	545	14,	Duc Decazes' views on the concert of the Great Powers respecting Turkish affairs.. ..	118
195	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	15,	Prince of Montenegro has sent back Austrian subjects who had joined his forces ..	118
196	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	15,	Turkish Ambassador has remonstrated with Count Andrassy against closing of Klek ..	119
197	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	15,	Count Andrassy asserts closing of Klek is necessary for tranquillity of frontier. ..	119
198	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	15,	To send a Secretary of Embassy or Mr. Wrench with Mr. Dupuis to report on alleged Bulgarian atrocities.	119
199	To Sir A. Buchanan ..	328	15,	Turkish Ambassador has inquired Her Majesty's Government's opinion on closing of Klek	119
200	„ „ ..	329	15,	Meeting of the two Emperors at Reichstadt: discussions which might form basis for future agreement	119
201	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	15,	Dissatisfaction felt at the closing of Klek ..	120
202	„ „ .	Telegraphic	15,	Pretensions of Greece, supported by General Ignatiew	120
203	Mr. Wyndham ..	160	8,	Extracts from Greek press; reported purchase of arms by Greek Government	120
203*	„ „ ..	162	9,	Conversation with the German Chargé d'Affaires at Athens	121
204	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	16,	Reported success of Montenegrins	121

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
205	Mr. Monson ..	75	July 5, 1876	Proclamations of Prince of Montenegro to his subjects and to the insurgents on declaring war	122
206	„ „ ..	76	6,	Telegrams respecting fighting at Berlina, and stating that no Latin village has joined insurgents	122
207	„ „ ..	77	7,	Slav telegrams deny Turkish successes; movements of the Montenegrins, &c.	123
208	Mr. Harriss-Gastrell ..	110	12,	German Consul-General brings news that an expectant attitude will be maintained ..	123
209	Lord A. Loftus ..	312	12,	The two Emperors have agreed on non-intervention	124
210	Mr. Malet	264	13,	Speech of M. Melegari, and his views on Eastern affairs	124
211	Sir A. Buchanan ..	472	13,	Closing of the port of Klek	124
212	„ „ ..	473	13,	Difference between Servian Generals after defeat at Ak Palanka	125
213	Lord Odo Russell ..	316	15,	Has left copies of despatches as instructed with Count Bismarck, as instructed in No. 508	125
214	Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha	..	5,	Prince of Montenegro's telegram to Grand Vizier on commencement of hostilities ..	125
215	To Vice-Consul Dupuis	Telegraphic	17,	Has requested Sir H. Elliot to send some one from Embassy with him to scenes of alleged atrocities	126
216	To Sir H. Elliot ..	441	17,	Has read with interest Mr. Blunt's despatch on reforms in Bosnia	127
217	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	17,	Montenegrins reported in possession of Klek ..	127
218	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	17,	A Pasha sent as Extraordinary Commissioner to Bulgaria to inquire into atrocities ..	127
219	Consul Holmes ..	Telegraphic	17,	News of fighting from Herzegovina and Servian frontier	127
220	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	17,	Interview with Count Andrassy respecting closing of Klek. Austria will not annex Bosnia	127
221	Mr. Monson ..	78	9,	Montenegrin military movements. Reports untrustworthy	128
222	„ „ ..	79	9,	Sums of money sent to M. Yonine by Russian Government. Statements that Turkey is supplied by England with arms, &c., find unlimited credence	128
223	„ „ ..	80	10,	Translations of Prince Nikita's Proclamations to Herzegovinians and Montenegrins ..	129
224	„ ..	81	10,	Telegrams from Mostar reporting Turkish successes over Servians..	131
225	„ „ ..	82	11,	Movements of Montenegrins and insurgents. Enlistment of Austrian subjects	132
226	Sir A. Buchanan ..	474	15,	Position and movements of the Montenegrins..	132
227	„ „ ..	475	15,	Austrian press articles on closing of Klek and Cattaro	133
228	Sir H. Elliot .	Telegraphic	17,	Turkish Government will protest formally against the closing of Klek	136
229	To Sir H. Elliot ..	444	18,	Roumanian Government complain of want of courtesy at Constantinople. The Porte would do well to keep on friendly terms with the Principalities	136
230	„ „ ..	445	18,	Approves advice and warning to Porte, as reported in his No. 715..	136
231	Count Andrassy to Count Beust (communicated July 18)	Telegraphic	..	Views of Austrian Government on closing of Klek	137
232	Consul Reade ..	12	12,	Turkish and Servian movements. Translation of bulletin	137
233	Turkish Foreign Minister to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	17,	Statement of Turkish Government respecting alleged atrocities in Bulgaria	138
234	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	18,	Porte has entered formal protest against closing of Klek	139
235	Mr. Holmes ..	Telegraphic	19,	Montenegrins near Nevesigne. Klek closed. News from Servia favourable to Turks ..	139
236	Mr. Malet . ..	Telegraphic	19,	Italian Minister at Vienna received same answer respecting the closing of Klek as Sir A. Buchanan	139
237	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	19,	Strong proclamation against excesses by Bashi-Bazouks issued by the Grand Vizier ..	140
238	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	19,	Bulgarian atrocities. Mr. Baring left for Adrianople	140
239	To Mr. Wyndham ..	63	19,	Approves language as reported in his No. 155 .	140

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
240	To Sir H. Elliot ..	446	July 19, 1876	Approves the advice to Safvet Pasha, as reported in his No. 695	140
241	" " ..	447	19,	Approves language to Safvet Pasha in his No. 721	140
242	" " ..	448	19,	Bulgarian insurrection. Approves his exertions.	141
243	Mr. Monson ..	83	12,	Turkish success near Podgoritza. Telegram from Governor-General of Albania ..	141
244	" "	84	12,	Comments on the reasons Servia and Montenegro had in going to war, and enumerates the grounds on which they did so.. ..	142
245	Sir A. Buchanan ..	480	17,	Bosnian annexation to Austria. Extract from the "Fremdenblatt"	143
246	Porte to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	19,	Turkish successes over Servians	143
247	To Sir H. Elliot ..	457	20,	Neutrality of Danube. Approving suggestion as reported in his No. 693	143
248	To Mr. Monson ..	2	20,	Contraband at Cattaro for Montenegro. Approves reply to Turkish Consul-General, reported in his No. 74	144
249	Consul Holmes ..	Telegraphic	20,	Complete defeat of Servians at Lancha ..	144
250	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	20,	Italian Consul at Galatz sent to Ragusa. Telegram from Mr. Monson	144
251	" " ..	Telegraphic	20,	No formal protest at Vienna against closing Klek	144
252	" " ..	Telegraphic	20,	Exception taken to statement of Lord Derby's respecting necessity of Austria's pursuing a peaceful policy	144
253	Lord O. Russell ..	Telegraphic	20,	Settlement of Servian question. Question whether Her Majesty's Government adhered to proposal of Duc Decazes respecting ..	145
254	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	20,	Arrest and punishment of Bashi-Bazouks at Philippopoli	145
255	Consul-General White	Telegraphic	20,	Engagement below the Timok	145
256	Porte to Musurus Pasha	..	12,	Last letter of Prince of Servia to the Grand Vizier	145
257	Mr. Wyndham ..	167 Confidential	12,	Arms for Montenegro. M. von Wedel supposed to be acting with the knowledge of his Government	145
258	" " ..	168	13,	French Minister says the German Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed to urge a neutral attitude on Greece	146
259	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	21,	Turkish successes. Generally allowed ..	146
260	Lord Lyons ..	Telegraphic	21,	French proposal for settling Servian question. Knows nothing of it	146
261	Vice-Consul Dupuis ..	Telegraphic	21,	Bulgarian atrocities. Greatly exaggerated ..	146
262	To Sir A. Buchanan ..	333	21,	Closing of Klek. Conversation with Count Beust	147
263	To Lord Lyons ..	712	21,	Closing of Klek. Has told French Ambassador that Her Majesty's Government had refrained from expressing any opinion ..	147
264	Count de Vogüé to Duc Decazes	..	3,	Position of Austria in case of certain eventualities that may arise from the Turco-Servian war, and remarks on policy and situation of Count Andrassy	147
264*	Mr. St. John ..	71	1,	Roumanian grievances. Circular	150
265	" " ..	72	1,	Munitions of war from Russia not allowed to cross Roumanian frontier	153
266	" " ..	73	3,	Roumanian Chambers opened by Prince Charles. Copy of his address. Policy of strict neutrality recommended	153
267	Consul Holmes ..	21	6,	Report on present situation of affairs at Mostar, and agitation in Montenegro	153
268	" " ..	22	7,	Commencement of hostilities by Servia. Telegram from Governor-General to Turkish Embassy at Vienna	153
269	Consul Kirby Green ..	37	6,	Recourse of Montenegro to war. Note of that Government and of Prince Nicholas to the Grand Vizier	155
270	" " ..	38	11,	Encounters between Turks and Montenegrins. Two telegrams to Sir H. Elliot	156A
271	Sir H. Elliot ..	724	7,	Victory of Mahemet Ali Pasha over Servians near Novi-Bazaar	156A
272	" " ..	725	9,	Excitement at the Island of Scio	156B
273	" " ..	728	10,	Turkish gun-boats will not be sent to where the Danube separates Servia and Roumania ..	156B
274	" " ..	730 Confidential	11,	Alarming state of Sultan's health. Satisfactory report through Dr. Dickson	156B
274*	" " ..	732	11,	Memorandum on Roumanian demands ..	156C

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
275	Sir H. Elliot ..	735	July 11, 1876	Report that Bashi-Bazouks enlisted at Adrianople will be paid by Her Majesty's Government. Despatch from Vice-Consul Dupuis	157
276	" " ..	736	13,	Turco-Servian war. Copies of official telegrams from the 4th to the 13th instant	158
277	Consul-General White.	81	10,	Exchange of Special Envoys between Servia and Montenegro	164
278	"	82	14,	Inaccuracies of accounts from Belgrade in the Continental journals	164
279	"	83	15,	Neither Turkey nor Servia has gained any decided advantage yet	165
280	Mr. Monson ..	87	14,	Skirmish at Klek. News from Servia is on the whole unsatisfactory	166
281	"	88 Confidential	14,	Russian Consul-General disappointed at not following the Montenegrin campaign ..	166
282	Mr. St. John ..	77	11,	Feels sceptical as to sincerity of Roumania as to preserving strict neutrality	166
283	" " ..	78	13,	Neutrality of the Danube. Article in the official organ	167
284	Consul Reade ..	13	15,	Atrocities reported in the Widdin district ..	168
285	Sir A. Buchanan ..	483	18,	Despatch from Major Genne respecting the campaign of Servia	168
286	" " ..	485 Confidential	17,	Closing of Klek. Austrian reasons for so doing. No communication made by French or Italian Ambassadors in favour of its being kept open	170
287	" " ..	486	18,	Bosnian annexation to Austria. Possible sentiments of the Emperor respecting. Conversation with Count Andrassy respecting views of Franciscans	170
288	Lord Lyons ..	564 Confidential	20,	Belief of Frenchmen that the safety of France is involved in agreement between England and Russia	171
289	" " ..	566	21,	French settlement of Servian question. Has heard nothing respecting	172
290	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	21,	General Ignatiew leaves on Monday for three weeks	173
291	Turkish Foreign Minister to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	21,	Reports defeat of the Servians near Belina ..	173
292	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	22,	Turkish Ambassador reserves presenting protest against closing of Klek until statement of the grounds on which it is based are added ..	173
293	To Mr. Malet ..	399	22,	Italian Ambassador has asked views of Her Majesty's Government on Roumanian demands	173
294	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	22,	Opinion respecting settlement of Servian question	174
295	" " ..	Telegraphic	22,	Sultan's mind is affected	174
296	Mr. Harriss-Gastrell ..	113	16,	French proposal to Count Andrassy respecting a settlement at the end of the war ..	174
297	Consul Blunt ..	49	11,	Despatches to Sir H. Elliot respecting military operations against Servia, and Turkish armaments in Macedonia and Upper Albania ..	175
298	" " ..	50	12,	Turkish bulletin reporting recent successes against Servians and Montenegrins ..	176
299	" " ..	51	13,	Telegrams respecting operations against Servians; movements of troops	177
300	Mr. Wyndham ..	170	14,	Satisfaction of Turkish Minister at pacific attitude of Hellenic Government	178
301	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	23,	Protest of Austrian Government against Turkish vessel for firing on insurgents at Klek ..	178
302	" " ..	Telegraphic	23,	Improvement in the Sultan's health	179
303	" " ..	Telegraphic	23,	Reasons for sending Mr. Baring to Bulgaria instead of Mr. Wrench	179
304	" " ..	Telegraphic	23,	Interview with Grand Vizier; his statement respecting alleged Bulgarian atrocities ..	179
305	Mr. St. John ..	Telegraphic	23,	Reported mobilization of Roumanian army is untrue	179
306	Mr. Monson ..	90	15,	Movements of the Montenegrins; question of prisoners and wounded on Austrian territory.	180
307	Lord Odo Russell ..	319	20,	Information received by German Government confirms reported excesses in Bulgaria ..	180
308	" " ..	320	20,	French plan of settling Servian and Montenegrin questions. Herr von Radowitz asks views of Her Majesty's Government respecting	180
309	Lord A. Loftus ..	321	17,	Russian financial aid to Montenegro ..	181

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
310	Lord A. Loftus ..	322	July 17, 1876	Abstracts from Russian press; alliance of the three Empires. Appeal for pecuniary aid for the insurgents. Necessity of understanding between Russia and England	181
311	,, ,, ..	326	18,	Memoir of Roumanian grievances against the Porte. Comments of Russian press ..	184
312	,, ,, ..	329	19,	Interview with Prince Gortchakow. His views on Turkish affairs	185
313	,, ,, ..	330	19,	Prince Gortchakow's remarks on Mr. Disraeli's answer in House of Commons about Bulgarian atrocities. Language attributed to Sir H. Elliot at Constantinople	186
314	,, ,, ..	331	19,	Prince Gortchakow will not reply to Roumanian Memoir. His views respecting that country.	187
315	,, ,, ..	332	19,	General Ignatiew will go on leave for three weeks	187
316	,, ,, ..	333	19,	Prince Gortchakow's remarks on leave taken by General Ignatiew	188
317	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	24,	Mr. Cumberbatch or Mr. Simmons, at discretion, to go as Student Dragoman to Belgrade.	188
318	To Consul Blunt ..	4	24,	Approves measures taken to repress sale of boys and girls by Bashi-Bazouks, reported in his No. 44	188
319	Consul Holmes ..	23	10,	Views of Catholics in Herzegovina respecting annexation	188
320	,, ,, ..	24	10,	Proclamation at Mostar respecting hostilities. Montenegrins are entering Herzegovina ..	189
321	,, ,, ..	25	14,	Reports of Turkish and Servian successes. Course of events appear generally favourable to Turks	191
322	Mr. Malet ..	265	13,	Communications, &c., respecting proposal of a solemn warning to Servia. Remarks as to the origin of the suggestion	192
323	Mr. Malet	272	20,	Closing of Klek. M. Melegari has communicated with the Austrian Government respecting	192
324	,, ,, ...	274	22,	Roumanian Memorandum of demands. Italian Government has received, and replied that the moment was inopportune to consider the question	193
325	Mr. Cookson ..	230 Confidential	18,	Egyptian troops sent to Constantinople. Opposed by Russian Consul-General	193
326	Sir A. Buchanan ..	497	22,	Claims of Roumania. Austria has expressed no opinion, and think moment inopportune ..	193
327	,, ,, ..	Telegraphic	25,	Defeat of Montenegrins by Mouchtar Pasha ..	194
328	Mr. Jocelyn ..	Telegraphic	25,	Salonica. Governor-General condemned to a year's imprisonment	194
329	Consul Green ..	39	14,	Encounter of Turks and Montenegrins near Podgoritza. Copy despatch to Constantinople	194
330	,, ,, ..	40	15,	Mirdites. Attempt of Montenegro to induce them to revolt	195
331	Lord Lyons ..	582 Confidential	25,	French suggestions for settlement. Duc Decazes in a conversation let fall nothing about it	196
332	Mr. Jocelyn ..	Telegraphic	25,	State of affairs extremely critical, through the malady of the Sultan	196
333	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	26,	Arms and men passing through Wallachia to join Servians. If true, Porte may take preventive measures. Telegram to Mr. St. John.	197
334	To Sir H. Elliot ..	461	26,	Roumanian demands. Telegram from the Porte reciting. Has advised Porte to negotiate and gain time	197
335	,, ,, ..	Telegraphic	26,	Approves Mr. Baring being sent to Bulgaria ..	198
336	,, ,, ..	466	26,	Approving his sending Mr. Baring to Bulgaria.	198
337	,, ,, ..	Telegraphic	26,	Some definite scheme should be determined on before Porte invites Powers to consider arrangements	198
338	,, ,, ..	467	26,	Some scheme should be resolved on which the Powers might acquiesce in before Turkey proposes any arrangement	198
339	To Sir A. Buchanan ..	338	26,	Conversation with Count Beust respecting his language to Mr. Bright's deputation ..	198
340	Count Andrassy to Count Beust (communicated July 26)	..	..	Austrian policy. Remarks on Lord Derby's language in his speech to deputation ..	200

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
341	Communicated by Greek Chargé d'Affaires, July 26	..	July 26, 1876	Circassian Colonies in Thessaly and Epirus. Protest of Greek Government	201
342	Mr. Monsen ..	92	18,	Montenegrins on Austrian territory sent to Cettigné	201
343	,, ,, ..	93	19,	Montenegrins claim successes near Podgoritza .	201
344	,, ,, ..	94 Most Conf.	19,	General Ignatiew keeps Prince Nikita informed of the Servian doings through M. Yonine .	201
345	Sir A. Buchanan ..	498	24,	Annexation of Bosnia to Austria dangerous to relations of Empire and Russia. Extract of article from "Correspondance Autrichienne".	202
346	,, ,, ..	Telegraphic	27,	Montenegrin retrograde movement	202
347	,, ,, ..	Telegraphic	27,	Defeat of Montenegrins on 23rd instant ..	202
348	,, ,, ..	Telegraphic	28,	Retreat of Prince Nikita and army to Bangani .	203
349	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	28,	Circassian Colonies in Thessaly and Epirus. To inquire and report	203
350	To Mr. Wyndham ..	69	28,	Circassian Colonies. To inquire and report .	203
351	Consul Holmes ..	Telegraphic	28,	Mouchtar Pasha's movements	203
352	To Sir H. Elliot .	465	29,	Circassian Colonies. Copy instruction to Mr. Wyndham. For inquiries .. .	204
353	Mr. Wyndham ..	172	16,	Intrigues in Epirus. Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes"	204
354	,, ,, ..	173 Confidential	17,	State of affairs. Depression in the funds ..	204
355	,, ,, ..	175 Very Conf.	18,	Interviews with the Foreign Minister. His views on the prospects of Greece	205
356	,, ,, ..	178 Confidential	19,	Servian Agents at Athens and a Greek officer sent to Belgrade. No truth in former ..	206
357	,, ,, ..	179 Very Conf.	20,	Conversation with Austrian Minister on policy of Greece	207
358	,, ,, ..	180	20,	Paragraph from the "Hora" respecting boundaries of Greece being unsatisfactory ..	207
359	Sir H. Elliot ..	738A	14,	Closing of Klek. Painful impression produced by	207
360	,, ,, ..	740	14,	Bulgarian excesses. Has continually urged Porte to put an end to them Report by Mr. Sandison	208
361	,, ,, ..	744 Confidential	15,	Artillery at Nicolaiew for Servia. Private letter from Consul Stevens	210
362	,, ,, ..	745	15,	Montenegrins have left in a body to take part in the war	210
363	,, ,, ..	746	15,	Return of Monsignor Hassoun. Schism among the Armenian Catholics likely to end shortly.	211
364	,, ,, ..	748	15,	Closing of Klek. Great and general indignation felt at the Porte	211
365	,, ,, ..	750 Confidential	15,	In event of concessions being made, Greek Government will claim extension of frontier ..	211
366	,, ,, ..	751	17,	Official declaration of Porte respecting present war	212
367	,, ,, ..	754	17,	In Austrian notification of closing Klek Montenegro is spoken of as an independent State .	214
368	,, ,, ..	758	19,	Strong feeling of Roman Catholics against being annexed to Servia	214
369	,, ,, ..	760	19,	Neutrality of the Danube. Copy of correspondence between the Porte and the Roumanian Agent	214
370	,, ,, ..	761	19,	Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina coming under Servia. Copy of a letter on the subject dated nine years ago	216
371	,, ,, ..	762	19,	Salonica murders. Report on sentences by Mr. Dragoman Stavrides . ..	217
372	,, ,, .	763	19,	Sultan's health. Probably in a very serious state	220
373	,, ,, ..	765	19,	Bulgarian atrocities. Report from Vice-Consul Dupuis	220
374	,, ,, ..	766	19,	Settled at a Grand Council that the project of constitutional reform must be considered immediately	222
375	,, ,, ..	767	20,	Copies of official war telegrams of the past week	222
376	Consul Blunt ..	52	18,	Order from French Admiral to his captains to prevent collisions with Turkish troops ..	228
377	Consul Green ..	42	18,	Military operations near Podgoritza. Copy of despatch to Constantinople	228
378	Consul-General White	85	21,	Respecting Servian overtures to Greece ..	229
379	,, ,, ...	86	22,	Servian army unable to continue on the offensive. No reliable information ..	229

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
380	Consul-General White	87	July 22, 1876	Plan of campaign altered. To be two armies in future	230
381	Consul Reade ..	14	22,	Atrocities in Tatar Bazardjik district. Inquiry from and report to Constantinople ..	230
382	Mr. Monson ..	95	21,	Signor Durando appointed Italian Agent to Prince of Montenegro	231
383	„ „ ..	96	21,	Inaction of Montenegrin army. Various hypotheses accounting for	232
384	Consul Sebright ..	8 Confidential	25,	Comments on different events and reports at Corfu	232
385	Sir A. Buchanan ..	501	26,	Men and arms presumably Russian pass through Wallachia daily to join Servians	234
386	„ „ ..	502	26,	Respecting probable settlement of insurgent provinces after the fighting is over .	234
387	„ „ ..	504	26,	Closing of Klek. Turkish protest delivered	234
388	„ „ ..	506	26,	Sultan supposed to be suffering from delirium tremens	235
389	Lord Lyons ..	589 Confidential	27,	Position and views of Greece. Conversation with Greek Minister	235
390	„ „ ..	590 Confidential	28,	Wish of Greek Government to share in any Conferences expressed to Duc Decazes, who wishes to learn opinion of Her Majesty's Government on this subject	236
391	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	29,	Circassian Colonies in Epirus. Porte denies intention to establish	237
392	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	29,	Austrian Ambassador reports the question of Klek as settled	237
393	To Mr. Wyndham ..	70	29,	Her Majesty's Government appreciate pacific attitude of Greece. To inform Foreign Minister	238
394	Porte to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	29,	Turkish protest against mediation	238
395	Consul Holmes ..	Telegraphic	30,	Defeat of Turks at Plana	239
396	Consul Blunt ..	53	18,	Military operations. Report to Constantinople	239
397	Consul Holmes ..	26	18,	Encounter at Zalom of Turks and Montenegrins, and agitation at Mostar	240
398	„ „ ..	27	21,	Montenegrins near Nevesigne. Policy of Austria incomprehensible	242
399	Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan	115	22,	Position of Magyar nationality in the Empire..	242
400	„ „ ..	117 Confidential	23,	Question of Bosnian annexation to Austria considered as resulting from Austrian intrigues .	243
401	„ „ ..	118	24,	Idea prevalent that Austria will at least occupy Belgrade	244
402	Mr. Monson ..	97	23,	Austrian action as regards Montenegrins and Turks on their territory	244
403	„ „ ..	98 Confidential	23,	Dispute between Prince Nikita and M. Yonine as to the inaction of Montenegrin army ..	245
404	Sir A. Buchanan ..	510	27,	The Austrian people would repudiate a policy of revolution, experiment and adventure ..	245
405	„ „ ..	513 Confidential	27,	Bosnian annexation. Count Andrassy's views are not changed	245
406	„ „ ..	514	27,	Klek. Porte preferred to postpone discussion of their right to free access	246
407	Lord O. Russell ..	330	29,	Salonica. German Government expect indemnity money to be paid without fail by 4th August	246
408	Admiralty	..	28,	Salonica. Report from Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Research" on state of affairs there	246
409	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	30,	Substance of Report from Mr. Baring on the Bulgarian atrocities	247
410	To Lord A. Loftus ..	419	31,	Bulgarian excesses. Approving his language to Prince Gortchakow as reported in his No. 330	247
411	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	31,	Circassian Colonies in Epirus. Porte has never entertained the idea	248
412	Consul Holmes ..	Telegraphic	31,	Mouchtar Pasha retreats to Trebinje. Great feeling of discouragement at Mostar ..	248
413	Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	31,	Should Mr. Baring pursue inquiries to the north of the Balkans	248
414	To Sir H. Elliot ..	496	31,	Conversation with Turkish Ambassador. Protest against mediation. Informed him that no proposals have as yet either originated with or been suggested to Her Majesty's Government	248

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in the Herzegovina.

Part IV.

No. 1.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 9. Political.)

Rustchuk, June 18, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch I addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 16th instant, chiefly respecting the Circassians in this Vilayet, who, from the reports that are almost daily brought from the interior, are, together with the Bashi-Bazouks, keeping several districts in a state of great consternation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Rustchuk, June 16, 1876.

Sir,

IN several of my reports to your Excellency during the past three months I had the honour to bring to your knowledge the alleged conduct of the Circassians in the Vilayet.

I, at the same time, spoke to the Governor-General here unofficially on the subject, and his Excellency made such statements that I entertained some hope that a check would be put to the sinister proceedings of these people, which was and still is the principal topic of conversation throughout the Vilayet.

From what has reached me, however, from reliable quarters, it appears that these people are committing atrocities, chiefly amongst the villages near the Balkans, which keep the whole of that quarter in a state of the greatest terror.

Not relying on Christian information I endeavoured to ascertain from Mussulmans whether or not the reports brought here on the subject, were true.

Having heard of the arrival of a Mussulman, native of Plevna, who was present in the district during the whole rising, I got a trustworthy Bulgarian to endeavour to find out what this man had to say on the subject, and he managed to introduce himself into a café where the man was in company with various other Turks.

On my informant coming away, he at once made a note of what he had heard, a translation of which I have the honour to inclose, but which he gave me as a confidential communication and would on no account sign.

I next morning went to the Governor-General and told him what I had heard. His Excellency said that, although the Circassians had certainly committed acts of violence, still what I had heard was exaggerated. This has always been his reply on these occasions.

I heard yesterday that my French colleague had been instructed to ascertain the truth of what he had heard on the subject, and which agrees a good deal with what I am relating.

It is even actually said here that these Circassians are kidnapping children of Bulgarians killed in the late affairs.

From what I can make out, I am really inclined to think that the object at this moment, in the lately disturbed district of Tirnova, is to diminish the number of Bulgarians as much as possible, for it is said that the Circassians seem to be doing all this with the apparent connivance of the authorities.

I yesterday perused the letter from the wife of a missionary at Tultcha, giving an account of sinister proceedings on the part of the Circassians in that neighbourhood and relating how the German Colonists there were suffering therefrom, I have requested Vice-Consul Stokes of Sulina and Tultcha to ascertain and report to me the real facts.

The foregoing are only those few of the numerous sinister rumours in circulation here which, having heard confirmed by trustworthy persons here, I lay before your Excellency principally to show that there is some reason to think that a state of consternation, at least, at this moment exists amongst the Christian villages at the foot of the Balkans and in the Tirnova district; but to ascertain the real truth of which nothing but a personal visit to the spot would suffice, as no one on the spot, under the present state of things, dares to put anything to paper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

(Translation.)

THIS morning I went to a café, where a Mussulman was sitting, in company with several Mussulmans of Rustchuk.

He was one of those sent against the insurgents, and this is what I heard him say:—

When asked whether he could be called a Ghazi (champion of the Faith), he answered, "I will not speak of what I have done; but when I tell you that even our schoolboys killed their five or six Bulgarians, what can you imagine that I did?"

He praised the Circassians as having done great things, having as their motto, "Giaur eulsun, vurunuz eulsun" ("Let the Giaour die—strike him, let him perish").

A Bimbashy (Major) present asked him if they had taken rifles from those that were killed. He replied, "That they had not even a hoe with them, much less rifles."

The Bimbashy then said that they must have killed innocent people. He replied, "Yes, very few had arms."

Another present remarked that 5,000 or 6,000 must have perished innocently. He answered, "If you had said 25,000 or 26,000 you would have been more correct." He added, "It is a great loss to the country, as most of them were tax-paying people."

He also said that at Plevna no Christian could go to his field or vineyard for fear of being robbed or maltreated; and that the people of Nicopoli and Shumla are preparing letters of thanks to their Kaïmacams for not having armed the Circassians in their districts.

Rustchuk, June 2, 1876 (old style).

No. 2.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 425.)

Foreign Office, June 28, 1876.

Sir,

ON the 26th instant the Duke of Argyll asked me in the House of Lords whether Her Majesty's Government had received from your Excellency any confirmation of the statement which appeared in the "Daily News" of the 23rd instant, and which gave an account of alleged atrocities upon Christians committed partly by Bashi-Bazouks and partly by Turkish regular troops in Bulgaria.

I inclose a copy of the statement to which the Duke of Argyll referred, and I have to request your Excellency to inquire and to furnish me with such information as you can obtain with regard to truth of that statement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Extract from the "Daily News" of June 23, 1876.

THE ASSASSINATIONS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—MOSLEM ATROCITIES IN BULGARIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 16, 1876.

DARK rumours have been whispered about Constantinople during the last month of horrible atrocities committed in Bulgaria. The local newspapers have given mysterious hints about correspondence from the interior which they have been obliged to suppress. I have hitherto refrained from mentioning these rumours, or from stating what I have heard, but they are now gradually assuming definiteness and consistency, and cruelties are being revealed which place those committed in Herzegovina and Bosnia altogether in the background. These cruelties have not been altogether (though they have in the main) confined to the side of the Turks; but that which throws the balance altogether against the latter is that the Government has been either unable or unwilling to prevent its own employés—I am unwilling to use the word soldiers, for the Bashi-Bazouks, by whom they have been committed, are altogether unworthy of the name—from committing these cruelties. While the attention of the European Powers has been occupied with Herzegovina, the Berlin Memorandum, and the deposition of Abdul Aziz, not merely have they allowed a great crime to be committed, but a great political blunder. It is a blunder, because Bulgaria has always been the province most under Russian influence. Its inhabitants are more connected by sympathy with the people of South Russia than those of any other province, and the cruelties there committed cannot fail, when they become known—as they probably are by this time in the dominions of the Czar—to arouse the indignation of the people to an extent which even the Emperor may have difficulty in controlling. The cruelties are, from all that I can learn, still continuing, and anyone who wants to comprehend the Eastern question must take into account the effect which they are likely to have upon a neighbouring and kindred people, when this people learns that their neighbours, whose only fault is that they are Christians, are being indiscriminately slaughtered.

When the insurrection broke out, regular soldiers were at first sent to put it down. Turkish soldiers are always a rough, undisciplined lot, but they had to deal with men who were not very much better, and who were in rebellion. Leaving out of consideration the provocation and justification which the insurgents had for rebellion, the systematic oppression of years, the numerous cases of individual cruelties and hardships, the long imprisonment in the foul dungeons, which, out of the capital, serve as prisons of men unconvicted and untried, but suspected, it may be admitted that in any country a rebel takes his life in his hands, and has no great reason to complain if, when he fails, he has to pay the penalty of death. Mercy towards belligerents was never expected, and has certainly never been shown in Turkish warfare. But the atrocities complained of are not the work of soldiers, but of Bashi-Bazouks. It will be remembered that in the Crimean war the reputation of more than one Indian officer was destroyed, because it was found impossible by men even with Indian experience to keep order among these irregular troops. Military organization or discipline they can scarcely be said to have. Composed of the dregs of the Turkish and Circassian population, with gipsies and gaol birds let out for the purpose, and under no responsible command, they have been let loose upon a large portion of central Bulgaria to put down the insurrection in their own fashion. The result is what everybody acquainted with the materials composing such a force might expect—the plundering of all moveable property, the burning of the houses and villages of the peasantry, without the slightest regard to the question whether the occupants have taken part in the insurrection or not, and the almost indiscriminate slaughter of old men, women, and children. One of the most fertile and productive provinces of the Turkish Empire is thus being laid waste. It is estimated by those who know the country well that the district, which has yielded to the Government an annual revenue of about 800,000*l.*, will not be able this year, nor for years to come, to produce a quarter of this sum. It is too soon yet to attempt to ascertain, with any degree of exactness, the number who have been killed. An intelligent Turk who has just arrived, estimates it at 18,000. Bulgarians speak of 30,000, and of the destruction of upwards of 100 villages. I pass over the stories of the burning of forty or fifty Bulgarian girls in a stable, and the massacre of upwards of 100 children in the village school-house, surprised by the Bashis, because though they are repeated everywhere in Constantinople, I have no sufficient authority to

enable me to express an opinion on their truth. The places where these atrocities are said and generally believed to have occurred have been utterly destroyed, and possibly also the evidence of the cruelties which preceded their destruction. I have, however, trustworthy information of a number of other outrages, many of which are altogether unfit for publication. An intelligent Pole, who has just succeeded in making his way through Bulgaria to Constantinople under the care of a guard of twelve Bashi-Bazouks, declares—though, as a political refugee, he hates Russia as much as a man can do—that the Cossacks are models of good behaviour and of discipline, in comparison with his guards and the company to which they belonged. On his way down they slashed at every Bulgarian whom they met. Even the Turkish boys under the protection of these Bashi-Bazouks were heard boasting how many infidels they had killed.

The difficulty of obtaining accurate statistics will be appreciated when it is remembered that, immediately upon the outbreak of the troubles in Bulgaria the mails were placed under the strictest supervision. All letters coming from the district were opened at the Turkish Post-office, and those containing objectionable information were suppressed. The local journals were forbidden to publish any correspondence from those districts. Restrictions were placed upon travel. The necessary passport to the capital or elsewhere could only be obtained by business men on showing precisely what was the nature of their business. The men who have got through are, as a rule, unwilling to give any particulars whatever as to the insurrection, suspecting a spy on every hand. Now, however, that news is coming in daily through other countries, these men are beginning to do more than drop mysterious hints, and more accurate information becomes possible.

I have made out the following partial list of names of villages which have been thus destroyed. Where I have been able to obtain accurate information as to the number of houses in those villages I have given the figures. District of Philippopolis, judicial sub-district (Nahia) of Koyun Tepe—the villages Leshnik, Uzun Geren, Krastovo, Saryabol Nasva-Koyu, Yurundjili, Aïvadjik, Pastusha, Saradja, Perushtitza, Yontchular, Ereli, Stavonovo-Selo. In the judicial sub-district of Gionsa—the villages Sindjirli and Klisura. In the judicial sub-district Ruptchos—the villages Diedovo, Boïkovo, Zhdrebitchka, Yasakur. In the district of Pazardjik—the villages Dimkata, 75 houses; Isernovo, 70; Shallar, 65; Kalugerovo, 300; Lesitchovo, 65; Kalatchlar, 60; Djumaya, 50; Popintzi, 100; Butya, 45; Banya, 60; Vietren, 400; Batak, 600; Radilovo, 100; Alikotchovo, 60; Kozarsko, 70; Petritch, 60; Ichanakdjievo, 60; Eshikli, 70. These thirty-seven names will suffice to give an idea of the horrible work which is going on. As to the number of women and children who have been massacred, one can only judge from the number of refugees, which is comparatively very small. One thing is very significant, not a girl ever ten years of age is to be found among those who have escaped. In one of the above-named towns, Perushtitza, 1,500 persons, mostly women and children, are known to have been killed.

A letter from Philippopoli gives full particulars of the destruction of this last-mentioned village. It contained 400 houses, and its wealth and prosperity have probably more than anything else brought about its ruin. Its inhabitants were all Bulgarians. Most of the villages round about were Turkish, and, as is usually the case in Turkey, the Christian village showed signs of prosperity which were altogether wanting in its neighbours, and which excited the jealousy of the latter. The Bulgarians were far outnumbered by their Turkish neighbours, and were anxious for peace. On the 6th of May the chief men of the village applied to the Government at Philippopoli for aid. Their Moslem neighbours were threatening them. Neighbouring villages had been attacked. All the Christians had been disarmed. Those who resisted had been burned. Next day the Government sent two policemen to the village, who were then to go beyond to another village. Two days later more men were sent from the village to declare to the Government that an attack was imminent. The Government simply took no notice whatever of the announcement. The Bashi-Bazouks of the Moslem village of Justina—that is to say, all the lowest roughs of the place—armed by Government, with full permission to kill, violate, and rob, determined to destroy Perushtitza unless its inhabitants would consent to surrender all the arms and ten of the leading families as hostages. Hard as these terms were, the inhabitants offered at once to accept them, with the exception that they proposed to deliver their arms not to the Moslem villagers of Justina, but to the Government. The Bashi-Bazouks appear to have become afraid that the wealthy village was, by accepting the proposed terms, going to escape from them; and, therefore, as soon as the submission had been received, they marched in a body towards the doomed Christian village. No charge of disloyalty, still less any charge of open rebellion, had been brought against it. Its one offence was that it was Christian, and, in consequence, as compared with a Turkish village, rich. For this reason alone the armed Moslem rabble were let loose against it and its unoffending

inhabitants. The village was surrounded and the inhabitants fired upon. Of course, the latter, surprised though they were, defended themselves, remaining, however, in their houses. A portion of the Christians even now consented to give up their arms, on being assured that they would not be injured, and a body of them unarmed, with women and children, and headed by two priests, went out to make submission. The two priests advanced to kiss the hem of the Turkish Chief's robe, and one was killed on the spot for his submission; the other was wounded in the head, but managed to escape. The unarmed inhabitants were attacked. Some of them fled, others took refuge in the two churches of the village. On the 11th of May Raschid Pasha arrived with a body of troops. He ordered the Christians to surrender their arms. They naturally requested to be allowed to retain them until the Bashi-Bazouks had withdrawn, fearing the fate of those who, having disarmed themselves, had submitted, and had found how utterly untrustworthy are the promises of a Turk. Raschid at once took the part of the Turks and ordered the villagers to give up their arms. He thereupon made an attack upon the church, and old men, women, and children, were indiscriminately slaughtered. Every house in the village was burnt, and on the 14th of May not a house existed. A certain number of the women and children escaped, and are now refugees in Philippopoli, but a number of women were carried off as legitimate prizes by the Bashi-Bazouks.

These cruelties have made a great impression in the capital. I believe it is no secret that our Ambassador has brought his influence to bear upon the Government with a view to putting an end to them; but I venture to say that nothing but the most positive orders to the Turkish Government will be sufficient to effect this object. The Government which has to be dealt with is apparently unaware that such proceedings as it is adopting will be discountenanced abroad. Even now it is openly asserted by the Turks that England has determined to help the Government to put down the various insurrections. England, says a Turkish journal, will defend us against Russia while we look after our rebels. Our duty is, it seems to me, clear, either non-intervention in its fullest sense, allowing the Turks and Christians to fight out the issue between them, and not giving support to Turkey, as we are now doing in various ways indicated in my last letter, or if our interest requires us to give a certain support, then to exact as the first condition that the Christians shall be treated on an equality with the Turks. The thing, however, now to be done is to put a stop without delay to the massacre. England cannot afford to allow Russia to take credit for being the single friend of the Christian populations in this country, and our own interests, no less than the duty to an oppressed people and to humanity, require that no time should be lost before it becomes known to the Turks and the various Christian communities that the Western nations will not tolerate any more of these barbarities.

P.S.—This morning great excitement was caused by the announcement of the murder of Hussein Avni, the Minister of War, and four other persons. I have telegraphed to you all the particulars known, and there is no time for comment. The official papers ascribe the murder to revenge, and not to any political object, but the general impression is that the murders were perpetrated on account of the hostility of Hussein Avni to the liberal reforms desired by the Young Turkey party.

No. 3.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 1.)

(No. 26.)

Scutari, June 19, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed by me this day to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the opposition shown by the Roman Catholics of Scutari to serve in the auxiliary irregular force, which the Governor-General wishes to form out of the inhabitants of some of the towns of this Province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, June 19, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency, that the Governor-General, in compliance with orders received from Constantinople, and in view of the possible commencement of hostilities with Montenegro, has been taking steps to form the inhabitants of some of the towns in this vilayet into an irregular auxiliary force.

On the 15th instant, the Moslems of Scutari were called upon to hold themselves in readiness to be armed; and, if necessary, to march to the frontiers of Montenegro; and, on the 17th, a similar communication was made to the Roman Catholic natives. The Orthodox Slav community being evidently distrusted, has not been summoned to prepare to join the movement.

When it was understood that the Mohammedans were to be armed, the Christians and most of the foreign residents here expressed alarm at the defenceless position in which they would be thus placed; but, as soon as the Government took steps to put them upon a perfect equality with the Mohammedans, they positively declined to be so treated. They have represented to the Governor-General that they pay a tax for exemption from military service; that they are unacquainted with the use of arms; and they will only consent to serve if embodied as regular troops.

Knowing that Achmed Hamdy Pasha has been somewhat displeased by this unexpected opposition, I have expressed to several influential Christians my belief that it would be more politic for the Roman Catholics of Scutari to endeavour to come to a quiet and amicable understanding with his Excellency regarding the exact nature of their military obligations, especially as I believe there is no serious intention of calling upon them to march to the frontier. The Governor-General has probably wanted to mark before the public that he makes no distinction between Ottoman subjects of different creeds; but, as your Excellency is, no doubt, aware, it is almost impossible for a Turk to satisfy his Christian fellow-countrymen; and, I am sorry to say, that most of the foreign Consuls in Turkey fancy it is their duty to encourage the Christians in their impracticable pretensions.

I have ventured to trouble your Excellency with this Report, as I believe several of my colleagues are likely to represent Achmed Hamdy Pasha's conduct as an unjustifiable and dangerous attempt against the acquired privileges of the Christians of Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 4.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 37. Political.)

Salonica, June 22, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 30, Political, of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith a printed copy, accompanied with its translation in French, of the Proclamation which has been issued by his Excellency Eshref Pasha, Governor-General of Salonica, with a view to counteract and dispel the influences and passions which are at work to disturb public tranquillity in the interior of Macedonia.

The Proclamation has been printed in Turkish, Greek, and Bulgarian, and is being widely disseminated.

The District Governors have also been specially instructed to act in accordance with its purport, and to explain it to all classes of the inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Proclamation of the Pasha of Salonica.

(Traduction.)

Habitants,

DEJA chacun connaît bien que la continuelle haute volonté de Sa Majesté notre puissant Roi consiste à la conservation de l'honneur de la vie et de la fortune des Mahométans, des Chrétiens, des Juifs, et de tous ses fidèles sujets; à la fraternelle cohabitation de toutes les nations qui sont sous son sceptre; à l'accomplissement des devoirs de chacun des sujets dans les bornes déterminés, sans user d'injustice ou de malveillance à un autre individu ou à son voisin et compatriote.

Certes chacun n'ignore pas qu'une personne, de quelque nation qu'il soit, qui s'approprie arbitrairement le droit d'un autre, c'est-à-dire qui attente l'honneur, la fortune, la vie des autres, ou qui force leur liberté et conscience religieuses, doit se soumettre par le Gouvernement à une punition analogue par exemple à l'imprisonnement, aux travaux forcés, et dans la nécessité à la peine capitale.

C'est la plus haute nécessité qui dicte un tel ordre de punitions au Gouvernement afin de conserver les institutions et la commune tranquillité de tous les sujets en général.

Tous les habitants qui se trouvent dans l'Empire, étrangers, ou de différentes religions, sont considérés égal vis-à-vis des lois de l'Empire, et ce qui concerne le droit il n'y a aucune différence entre eux, car vues les institutions religieuses et politiques nous ordonnent cette égalité.

Jamais l'assurance voulue ne peut exister pour la justice des droits quand il y a entre les habitants de quelque lieu, de quelque religion qu'il soient, une méfiance et des différences. D'ailleurs le manque de confiance tient à toujours le tout dans une intarissable inquiétude qui réduit ainsi inutiles tous les efforts qui ont été pris pour le bonheur du pays, et de cette même manière la patrie même est détruite.

Tandis que, au contraire, quand l'harmonie et la parfaite assurance existent parmis les habitants, les affaires continuent leur cours habituel et chacun, selon son occupation, va ou à son commerce, ou à l'agriculture, ou à l'industrie, et la patrie ainsi prospère et les habitants sont heureux.

Bien que depuis quelques siècles l'opinion publique, soit l'esprit commun, commençait par faire définir, par raison de la différence de religion, Ottomans, Chrétiens et Juifs, et, en un mot, tous ceux qui sont sous le sceptre de Sa Majesté Impériale, et portent le nom "d'Osmanli," sujets fidèles de tout rang ne vivaient pas moins comme de compatriotes, et ressemblaient à un group de nationalités destinées à se donner la main comme frères.

Aucun n'osait jamais offenser ou attenter la fortune, l'honneur, la vie, et les religieux usages de l'autre; et chacun jouissait d'une entière liberté pour l'accomplissement de ses droits sociaux. Plus cette confiance s'étendait plus aussi l'avancement et la prospérité de l'Empire s'accroissaient et chaque nation et chaque individu en particulier vivait dans une entière liberté.

Quoique cette heureuse condition des choses existe encore maintenant, néanmoins certaines propositions de quelques ennemis de la patrie peu avant et pendant la chute du système gouvernemental, ont laissé les germes d'une discordance et de méfiance parmis les différents sujets, ont plongé tous les habitants dans la tristesse, et ont mis dans le danger le commun progrès de la patrie.

Quelques-uns de nos compatriotes frivoles se liant aux paroles de personnes méchantes et malveillantes, se sont soulevées au détriment de leur propre intérêt, contre le bonheur de la patrie. Mais malheureusement la tristesse de pertes résultées par de telles démarches se répond aussi sur toute la patrie, car eux aussi étaient nos compatriotes.

Nous voyons de nouveau que les résultats de l'isolement et de la discordance se réfléchent sur la patrie et ses enfants, qui participent à son malheur et à son bonheur.

Mais grâce à Dieu par l'actuelle restauration toutes les nuisibles tendances exercées par le système gouvernemental qui vient d'être renversé sont déjà anéanties. Maintenant nous nous trouvons dans une époque où, nous tous, nous devons employer tous les moyens pour la prospérité et l'avancement de la patrie, et à collaborer sincèrement d'un commun accord pour le bonheur et le salut de tous.

Ainsi nous espérons que dorénavant tous les habitants essayerons que chaque nation vive en paix et en amour comme ça convient au patriotisme, et que chacun assuré de tout s'occupe de ses affaires de l'agriculture, du commerce, et de sa profession; et comme nous avons déjà dit, le malheur qui provient de l'isolement

et de la discordance de même le bonheur qui provient de l'harmonie et de l'union se reflètent à tous.

No. 5.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 478. Confidential.)

Paris, June 29, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAD this morning the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 615 of the day before yesterday, containing instructions relative to the Duc Decazes' suggestion that a strong and solemn warning should be given in concert by all the Great Powers to Servia to forbear from aggressive measures towards the Porte.

In pursuance of those instructions, I spoke to the Duc Decazes on the subject this evening.

I began by explaining to his Excellency what had taken place with regard to the advice already given to Servia by the Government of Her Majesty on the invitation of the Government of Austria. I proceeded to state, in the words of the last paragraph of your Lordship's despatch, that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to repeat that advice, if the other Powers whose influence over Servia is so apparent are also ready to do so, and to show the reality of their sentiments by firmly discouraging the incentives to hostile measures against Turkey, which Servia is receiving from foreign agitators and agents of Slav Committees.

The Duke said that his last accounts from Servia were very alarming, and led to the belief that Prince Milan's troops were on the point of crossing the frontier, if, indeed, a part of them had not already done so. His Excellency proceeded to tell me that on receiving these accounts last night, he had at once despatched by telegraph to the French Agent at Belgrade orders to warn Prince Milan once more of the danger he was incurring, and to make it clear that up to the very last moment the French Government had done all in its power to deter His Highness from the mad and hazardous enterprise ("folle aventure") into which he seemed about to rush.

But, notwithstanding the very unfavourable character of the last intelligence, the Duke would not abandon all hope of averting the calamity. It was, he thought, still possible that it might not yet be too late to stop the Prince. He should at once make known by telegraph to the other Powers the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government, and invite them to join in a solemn warning to Servia.

In order to make sure that the Duke understood correctly the views of Her Majesty's Government, I read to him the last paragraph of your Lordship's despatch, and also showed it to him.

His Excellency then drew up a telegram to be sent off for communication to the other Governments, and read it to me. It stated that, in consequence of a suggestion from him, Her Majesty's Government were ready to unite with the other five Powers in giving a fresh warning to Servia, and it appeared to me to be sufficiently in conformity with the terms of your Lordship's despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 6.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 479. Very Confidential.)

Paris, June 30, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes said to me, in the course of the conversation which I had with him last evening, that he had had an impression that the Prince of Montenegro had come to terms with the Porte, and intended to leave the Prince of Servia in the lurch; in short, that Prince Milan would be sent against the Turks as an "enfant perdu."

The Duke added, however, that he had been staggered in this belief by a telegram which he had just received from a person in attendance on the Princess of Montenegro, and which stated that the Princess had suddenly been recalled to Cettigné from a watering place, on the ground that a campaign was on the point of beginning.

I send copies of this despatch, and of my immediately preceding despatch No. 478 of yesterday, by the messenger, Captain Robbins, this evening to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, under flying seal to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 7.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 480. Very Confidential.)

Paris, June 30, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes begged me last evening to express to your Lordship his particular desire that the two sketches of notes which he had given me, with a view to suggesting an identical communication from all the Great Powers to the Porte, may be treated as most strictly confidential by Her Majesty's Government.

The draft notes the Duke referred to were those which I transmitted to your Lordship with my confidential despatch No. 403 of the 7th instant.

I send by the messenger this evening a copy of my present despatch to Sir Henry Elliot, under flying seal to Sir Andrew Buchanan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 8.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 483.)

Paris, June 30, 1876.

My Lord,

M. CALLIMAKI CATARGI, who has recently returned from Roumania, called upon me yesterday, and said that he was desirous of speaking to me of the embarrassing position in which his country and his Government would be placed in case of actual hostilities between the Porte and Servia.

The present state of affairs in Turkey had, he said, already inflicted serious injury in Roumania. Commerce was paralysed by the uncertainty which prevailed; and he was grieved to say that he had left his country in a condition far from prosperous.

There was, however, one special peril to which he wished to call my attention at this moment. It appeared that the Turkish flotilla had been ordered to go up the Danube. Now, the river ran for a considerable distance between Servia and Little Wallachia. Shots from the Servian side directed against the flotilla would very probably fall on that part of the Roumanian territory and do serious damage. It was to be noted too that the farmers and traders in Little Wallachia were principally Servians; and great embarrassment, not to say danger, might be caused by the excitement which would prevail among them, if they were witnesses of actual fighting between their countrymen and the Turks. These and similar considerations were the cause of great anxiety to the Roumanian Government, and M. Callimaki Catargi was instructed to bring the matter to the notice of the French Government, and to suggest that it might be possible to establish some sort of neutrality in that part of Servia, so that hostilities should not take place in the immediate neighbourhood of Roumania.

M. Catargi said that he should speak to the Duc Decazes on the subject as soon as possible; and as there was no Roumanian agent in London, he should be very much obliged if I would lay the matter before your Lordship.

He concluded by expressing in warm terms the regard and esteem in which Mr. Vivian was held at Bucharest, and the great regret which was felt there at his departure.

I send by this evening's messenger a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, under flying seal to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 9.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 1, 1876.*

(Very Confidential.)

I LEARN from undoubted source Russian Consul-General at Ragusa has been advising his Government to allow Austria to annex Bosnia, in order to prevent possibility of any eventual collision between Russia and Austria, and I suspect also with future view to Russian annexation of Northern Bulgaria.

No. 10.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1, 11·30 A.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 1, 1876, 9 A.M.*

WITH reference to telegram of 29th from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, I am told that the declaration of Servian Agent referred to, included intimation that Prince intends following up his views with arms, which is viewed as tantamount to declaration of war. A Proclamation to that effect is to appear here to-day.

No. 11.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received July 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 1, 1876, 1 P.M.*

I HAVE recommended the adoption of conciliatory policy towards Roumania, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram of the 29th ultimo, and advised that Turkish gunboats should not be sent above the point where Servia reaches the Danube, as long as Roumania carries out her engagement to be neutral. It must, however, be remembered that the arms lately introduced into Servia have come from Russia, passing through Roumania, and if supplies or men continue to be passed across the river, Porte will probably think it necessary to take all measures in their power to prevent them.

No. 12.

Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1, 3·48 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Corfu, July 1, 1876, 1·27 P.M.*

SIX mountain guns, with the necessary , and 1,300 loaded bombs, destination Montenegro, packed in seventy-six boxes, are deposited in transit depôt at Corfu by three Russian emissaries. On the 27th ultimo, immigrants' small arms were shipped off by a patriotic Association ostensibly for Previsa. Important correspondence discovered by Turkish Consul has been already reported to Minister for Foreign Affairs at Constantinople, and will be shown to Sir H. Elliot by Consul, who has been recalled. Great caution in action necessary.

No. 13.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received July 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 1, 1876, 2 P.M.*

IN the letter from the Prince of Servia, reported in my telegram of 29th ultimo, he intimates that, though Turkish troops may suppress the insurrection, it is only through Servia that the condition of the Christians can be permanently guaranteed, while at the same time the integrity of Turkey would be maintained. The following are the words used by the Prince:—

* Repeated to Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Rome.
† Repeated to Embassies.

"I declare to your Highness that, with a view to co-operating, by the employment of the military forces of the Principalities, in the establishment of a state of things favourable to the common interests of the Empire and of Servia, I am determined to act upon this order of ideas."

This is nearly a declaration of war, but the Porte has asked my opinion upon the answer to be returned. I said I could not advise an elaborate answer. It would be enough to say that Porte cannot admit the hostile attitude of Servia to have been caused by any real fear of attack; that, as the Prince admits that the Imperial troops can suppress the insurrection, the best mode for him to contribute to the pacification would be by withdrawing his troops from the frontier, where they excite false hopes in the insurgents, and the Porte, therefore, trusts that strict orders will be given to respect the frontier.

No. 14.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 1, 1876, 3·35 P.M.*

COUNT ANDRASSY acceded yesterday by telegraph to Due Decazes' proposal for a joint warning to Servia, on condition of all the other Guaranteeing Powers accepting it, but without expecting a satisfactory result.

No. 15.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, July 1, 1876, 6·55 P.M.*

FRENCH Government has invited German Government to join in solemn warning to Servia. They have acceded, but fear it is too late.

No. 16.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, July 1, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

THE French Minister at Rome invited the Italian Government to make communication at Belgrade in accordance with your Lordship's suggestion to the French Government, and the Italian Government telegraphed to Belgrade this morning accordingly.

No. 17.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 1, 1876, 11 P.M.*

IN answer to an inquiry, Baron Hofmann said to me to-day that the force on the frontier of Bosnia and Servia would not be for the present increased, as such a measure would not be necessary if the Servians were defeated by the Turkish troops.

No. 18.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 396.) *Foreign Office, July 1, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called to-day and asked me whether, in the event of war breaking out between Turkey and Servia, Her Majesty's Government intended, as he had been led to believe, to adhere to a policy of strict and absolute non-intervention.

* Repeated to Embassies.

I said that such was undoubtedly the case, but that it must be clearly understood that Her Majesty's Government entered into no engagement to continue to abstain from intervention, in the event (which, however, I could not assume as probable) of a different course being pursued by other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 19.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 147. Confidential.)
Athens, June 24, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have learnt, on what I consider to be very good authority, that the National Bank is prepared to advance 3,000,000 drachmas (about 107,142*l.*) to the Hellenic Government, for the purchase of 40,000 or 45,000 rifles and ammunition at Berlin.

Colonel Manos, who was sent to Germany some time ago, is to be, or has been, joined by an artillery officer, whether for the purpose of examining the rifles in question, or with a view to buying cannon, I do not know. I am told, however, that the desire here to possess some arms immediately has cooled down very much within the last few days.

The army being fully armed, and the reorganization of the National Guard being practically a dead letter, I have been endeavouring to find out for what purpose the new rifles were destined, and I have been confidentially told that depôts of arms were to have been formed in different parts of the country, and that they would be introduced by degrees into Thessaly and Epirus; and had a rising taken place in Crete, many would probably have found their way to that island.

With reference to my No. 140, Very Confidential, of the 17th instant, I now understand that the Ionian Bank is about to advance some money to the Government, for the purpose of paying certain Government officials whose salaries are said to be three months in arrear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 20.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, July 2, 1876, 2 P.M.*

THE Prince of Montenegro has declared war, and left Cettigné at 6 this morning to join his troops in the field.

No. 21.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 2, 1876, 12·45 P.M.*

SERVIANS have passed frontier with thirty guns towards Palanka to the east of Nisch. A telegram has been also received from the Prince of Montenegro declaring war.

No. 22.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 2, 1876, 2 P.M.*

PROCLAMATION of Prince Milan dated head quarters, issued last night, is equivalent to a declaration of war. It professes devotion to the principle of the

integrity of the Ottoman Empire, but at the same time it announces determination to cross the frontier of Turkey at once, in unison with Prince of Montenegro, and also in the expectation of another Bulgarian insurrection. Martial law has been proclaimed throughout the Principality. News of actual hostilities expected, as it is believed that the Servian troops have had orders to cross in several directions.

Unless I obtain some prompt assistance, the public service must necessarily suffer.

No. 23.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 65. Political.)
Ragusa, June 25, 1876.

My Lord,

M. DE WESSELITZKY, who took so prominent a part in the negotiations between the insurgents and Baron Rodich, and who went to Berlin at the time of the concoction of the "Memorandum" has, it would seem, come to the end of his *rôle*. About a fortnight ago he went to Cettigné, avowedly to take service with Montenegro; but the Prince, under Russian advice, refused to see him or to have anything to do with him; and I now hear that he has "determined to travel."

The Russian Government have, in fact, wreaked their spite upon a subordinate agent, whose indiscretion certainly did much to compromise them, but whose character and antecedents should have made them careful in their dealings with him. They say that it was simple carelessness on the part of the police that he was allowed to enter Russia, and have confidential interviews with Prince Gortchakow. They allege that he had quitted the Russian army, and had for some years been connected with the socialistic journalism of Switzerland; that he forged, or procured to be forged, papers which gave him access to M. Youine and to Prince Nikita, and through them to the Russian Chancellor; and that he has proved to be nothing but an adventurer and a swindler, whose return to Russia the police have consequently received orders to prevent.

This little episode is highly characteristic of the action of Russian diplomacy in these countries. The Russian Government does not disdain to use the dirtiest tools to compass its plots, and work out its policy; considering itself free to disown and ruin them when the plots collapse, and the policy is foiled. The official Agents of that Government do not scruple to countenance the cashiered (or pensioned ?) officers, who, under the guise of newspaper correspondents and hospital attendants, are aiding Servia and Montenegro to carry on the war. They receive these people into their houses, and invite them every day to dinner, with hardly any pretence at being ignorant of their character. And when the truth can no longer be concealed, or the individual too openly compromises them, they show neither shame at the detection, nor tenderness to the worthless subordinate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 24.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 66. Political.)
Ragusa, June 25, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 55 of the 11th instant respecting the miserable condition of the refugees, and the mortality caused amongst them by famine and disease, I have the honour to state that the wretchedness of their plight appears to have become aggravated during the last fortnight, inasmuch as the Austrian Government is continually diminishing the amount of the food allowance. I am assured that in most cases the relief is but 10 kreuzers (something less than 2½*d.*) per head for four days; and even this is not universally granted. The result is that the women are to be seen all day begging in the streets, especially at the doors of the various Consulates. The Russian Consulate, as is only natural, is daily besieged by refugees, and these people seem to be really famishing. I have spoken to the Turkish Consul-General, and he says he dare not give local relief, because he

would be told that he was acting in opposition to the measures of the Austrian Government to force the refugees to return. The Russian Acting Consul-General told me yesterday that he had telegraphed urgently for instructions. The local authorities inform me that they are much embarrassed, and know not how to carry out the orders to "relieve only the absolutely destitute," when there are thousands of applicants who come under that category, and when there are constant accessions to the numbers already in Dalmatia. There is, moreover, a very natural dread that an epidemic may break out in the town of Ragusa, the narrow and filthy streets of which seem to have been expressly constructed for the propagation of disease. As yet, however, in spite of the hot weather, and the propinquity of the refugee camps, the sanitary condition of the town, though bad, is by no means alarming.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 25.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 417.) *Gastein, June 26, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram of the 24th instant, acquainting me with the wish which Count Beust had expressed to you, on the part of Count Andrassy, that the Grand Vizier should be advised to make a communication to the Prince of Montenegro expressing the confidence of the Porte that His Highness would exert his moral influence with the insurgents in order to promote the pacification of the revolted provinces; and that His Highness should at the same time be assured by the Pasha of Scutari, or some other proper person, that, if through his agency the pacification were effected, the Porte would attend, as far as possible, to his wishes and claims when the question of the delimitation of the frontier is again taken up.

With reference to the observations which your Lordship made on this subject to Count Beust, I immediately requested Mr. Ffrench to inform Count Andrassy that your Lordship had stated to the Austrian Ambassador that Her Majesty's Government saw no objection in principle to the Porte being encouraged to negotiate directly with the Prince of Montenegro in the manner suggested by his Government; but that your Lordship considered the language of the proposed communication, as to the nature and extent of the concessions promised to Montenegro, to be extremely vague.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 26.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 418.) *Gastein, June 26, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 298 of the 16th instant, which was received at Vienna on the 24th, and reached me yesterday, I have the honour to inform you that I immediately requested Mr. Ffrench to acquaint Count Andrassy with your wish that I should express to his Excellency the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had learnt from me of his having told the Senator Petrovitch that he must insist on obtaining an unconditional promise from the Prince of Montenegro to use his influence with the insurgents to promote the restoration of peace.

I also requested Mr. Ffrench to state at the same time to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government hope that he will continue to impress upon Prince Nicholas these counsels, which, if followed, will be the surest method of leading to the pacific solution equally desirable to both Governments.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 27.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 419.) *Gastein, June 28, 1876.*

My Lord,

IN a telegram from Vienna dated the 18th instant, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that I had acquainted Count Andrassy verbally with the opinions which you expressed to Count Schouvaloff, as reported in your despatch to Lord A. Loftus, No. 378, of the 14th instant, as to the improbability of any arrangement being effected between the Turkish Government and the insurgents in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, until successful military operations on the part of the Turkish forces shall have diminished the pretensions of the latter, or a consciousness of its inability to subdue them shall have rendered the Porte less unwilling than at present to concede the administrative autonomy to which they aspire.

I reported, at the same time, that Count Andrassy had stated to me in reply that, as Count Schouvaloff had communicated to Count Beust the substance of your language on the subject, he had already made some observations upon it, which, Count Beust had informed him, had been favourably received by your Lordship.

His Excellency said he could not concur in your Lordship's appreciation of the existing state of things, as in his opinion the insurgents are not fighting for autonomy, whatever may be the aspirations of their chiefs; and, as many refugees have already returned to their homes, he felt assured that the Christian population of the provinces generally would submit to the Turkish authorities on the Porte adopting measures which would satisfy them, that the privileges and the administrative reforms promised would be immediately secured to them.

He then read a telegram from Ems, in which Count Carolyi informed him that Prince Gortchakow had expressed satisfaction with your Lordship's proposals, as they had been reported to him by Count Schouvaloff, and that His Highness was about to forward to M. de Novikoff a copy of Count Schouvaloff's despatch, with instructions to communicate it to his Excellency. I said that your Lordship did not appear to me to have made proposals, but merely to have explained to Count Schouvaloff, in answer to his inquiries, the views which Her Majesty's Government entertain of the present state of things in the insurgent provinces, and as to the means by which their pacification may be eventually effected. I said that as Count Schouvaloff's report of your Lordship's opinions was about to be communicated to him, I thought it would be desirable that he should also see your own report of them, and that, as I was obliged to leave Vienna for a few days, I would request Mr. Ffrench to read to him an extract from a despatch in which you had acquainted Lord Augustus Loftus with the language which you had held to the Russian Ambassador. I considered this necessary, as I thought it not impossible that your Lordship might be represented to consider the autonomy of the provinces as the best solution of the question, and because, from an observation of Count Andrassy, it appeared to me that he feared you had so expressed yourself; and though Prince Gortchakow is most desirous to bring about such an arrangement, it is, I believe, one to which Count Andrassy entertains serious objections, as likely to prove injurious to the interests of Austria-Hungary.

The extract of your Lordship's despatch, which I requested Mr. Ffrench to read to his Excellency, contained its concluding paragraphs, beginning with that in which you state that, "in answer to a further inquiry of Count Schouvaloff, I said that it was no part of the system or policy of England to take a position of isolation on Eastern affairs."

Your Lordship will have since learnt from a telegraphic report of Mr. Ffrench that, on his reading this extract to Count Andrassy, his Excellency expressed himself pleased with the tone of your Lordship's observations, but that he objected to the possible autonomy or independence of the insurgent Provinces as unsuited to a mixed population of Turks and Christians, who, being without the conditions of homogeneity possessed by Servia and Roumania, would be in a constant state of civil war, as, whether they were annexed to Servia or governed by a Prince as a separate State, the means of exercising a sufficient control over them would be wanting. He repeated also to Mr. Ffrench what he had already stated to me, that Servia is now ready for war, and is only awaiting an opportunity to make common cause with the insurgents; and that though the Turkish troops would possibly be worsted at first, as neither party would admit defeat, the war might be prolonged for years; and he, therefore, considered that, while the united moral support of the Great

Powers should be given to the Porte, it should be advised to take the initiative in carrying out the proposed reforms, with a view to prevent hostilities, and that influence should be employed to separate the Servians and Montenegrins from the insurgents, or, as his Excellency has more fully explained to me, that the Porte should endeavour to separate the interests of Servia and Montenegro, and to induce the latter by the promise of eventual territorial concessions to promote the pacification of the Provinces.

I have already reported in my telegram of the 18th instant, that, when his Excellency spoke to me in this sense, I expressed to him my belief that Sir Henry Elliot would not fail to advise the Porte to do everything in its power by administrative reforms to facilitate the restoration of peace, and Mr. Ffrench has since acquainted his Excellency, in conformity with your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of the 24th instant, with the earnest advice given by Sir Henry Elliot to the Porte to endeavour to prevent Montenegro acting in concert with Servia, and with his having suggested the expediency, as Nichsich had been revictualled without opposition, of the Porte's sending a message to Prince Nicholas acknowledging the influence which he is exerting over his subjects, and promising that, when tranquillity is restored, it will consider what it may be possible to do in the matter which he has at heart.

A telegram from Mr. Ffrench will have informed your Lordship that Count Andrassy said that he had sent similar instructions to Count Zichy three weeks ago, and that he fears, should the Porte now act on the advice it has received, it will be too late to have any effect upon events.

Mr. Ffrench will also have reported to your Lordship that, in answer to his inquiries as to the course which the Austrian-Hungarian Government would pursue in the event of Servia becoming a party to the war, his Excellency said that they would take such measures to protect ("sauvegarder") the interests of the Monarchy as circumstances might require.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 28.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 3.)

(No. 99.)
Sir, *Buda-Pest, June 26, 1876.*

IN view of the threatening aspect of the Eastern question, public opinion in Hungary has shown itself with almost complete unanimity in favour of the strictest neutrality, and also of the maintenance of the integrity of Turkey, whatever may be the result of a war between the Suzerain and the vassal States. The Hungarian press, with scarcely an exception, has given expression to the national feeling; and a series of articles in the "Pester Lloyd" has reiterated the chief points of a Hungarian and Imperial policy, "within the three Emperors' alliance, if possible, outside of it, if necessary." If a war breaks out between Servia and Turkey, it has written, Austria-Hungary must take a firm and clear attitude; Turkey should in no way be hampered in the development of her strength, and the result of the war should in no way change the territorial and Suzerain rights of the Porte; but should the issue of the war be unfavourable to the Porte, and consequently the latent differences between Russia and Austria in Eastern policy become salient, the Empire would have the consolation of feeling that, to the last moment, everything had been done that was possible to bridge them over.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 29.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 3.)

(No. 100.)
Sir, *Buda-Pest, June 27, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that in Southern Hungary, along the frontier, a Slav agitation, under the influence of the Omladina, has begun.

Many exaggerated statements have appeared in the journals, but, so far as I can gather, the collection of money and the recruiting for "the Holy War" of Servia against the Turks have not yet taken any important proportions.

The Hungarian Government wish to avoid resorting to martial law, but have taken measures to check the agitation and silence the agitators. A certain Jovanovics, who has acted as a Servian emissary in respect of the collection of money, has already been arrested; and a Dr. Löw, of a Government department, has visited the Neusatz district, and added to the information at the disposal of the authorities. No mistrust is felt about the Slav troops on the frontier, which is now more strongly guarded than before. The Austrian steamers no longer take passengers for Bosnian towns, and cyphered telegrams are forbidden in all frontier districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 30.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 292. Confidential.) *Berlin, June 30, 1876.*

AS I had the honour to report to your Lordship this day by telegraph, Count Carolyi informed me that he had been instructed to communicate with the German Government on the views expressed by your Lordship in your No. 378 of the 14th of June last to Lord Augustus Loftus, as also on the opinion of Prince Gortchakow on the same subject, which was conveyed to your Lordship through Count Schouvaloff on the 21st instant.

The language which Count Carolyi appears to be instructed to hold to the German Government is identical with that held by Count Andrassy to Sir A. Buchanan; but his Excellency seemed to insist particularly on the impossibility of Austria countenancing or sanctioning the autonomy or independence of the Christian provinces now in revolt, which he feared would constitute a first step towards the eventual formation of a Slav State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 31.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 295. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 1, 1876.*

M. DE RADOWITZ, temporarily in charge of the German Department for Foreign Affairs, stated to me this morning that, in concert with the French Government, the Government of the Emperor had instructed His Imperial Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to urge upon the Porte the necessity of the heaviest sentence of which the Turkish law admits being passed on the officers now under trial at Constantinople for the murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica.

M. de Radowitz added that Prince Bismarck was at first disposed to insist on the execution of the individuals in question, deeming an example should be made of the persons of note who had, if not instigated, connived at the outrage; but that, in deference to the Emperor's personal wish, and in consideration of the difficulties by which Turkey is at present beset, he would not press for capital punishment, provided that the sentence suggested by the German and French Delegates were duly passed and faithfully carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 32.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July 3.)

Constantinople, le 2 Juillet, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

LE Prince de Serbie a adressé à son Altesse le Grand Vézir une lettre assez longue, datée le 22 Juin, dans laquelle, après avoir articulé certains griefs non-fondés, et parlé de la concentration des troupes du côté de la ligne de démarcation, il finit par déclarer sa résolution de co-opérer, par l'emploi des forces militaires de la Serbie, à l'établissement d'un état de choses favorable aux intérêts communs de l'Empire et de la Principauté.

Le Prince prie, par conséquent, la Sublime Porte de lui faciliter sa mission, en donnant aux Autorités Impériales l'ordre de renvoyer dans leurs foyers ce qu'il appelle des bandes des pillards, faisant allusion aux irréguliers, et d'enjoindre aux troupes Impériales de ne pas mettre obstacle à ses efforts, afin de lui permettre de professer hautement le principe de l'intégrité de l'Empire.

En même temps, dans une dépêche adressée à l'Agent de la Principauté, M. Ristich l'invite à proposer à la Sublime Porte de confier au Gouvernement Princier l'administration de la Bosnie contre le paiement annuel d'une somme fixe et invariable.

Cette étrange proposition ne pouvait évidemment être admise. Cependant, nous nous proposions de répondre à cette lettre du Prince Milan pour réfuter une à une les accusations qu'il y avait formulées contre la Sublime Porte, lorsque, aujourd'hui même, nous avons reçu de nos autorités civiles et militaires des vilayets de la Bosnie et du Danube l'avis officiel de l'entrée des troupes Serviennes, avec leur artillerie, le 1er et le 2 Juillet, par trois points différents, sur le territoire Ottoman, ce qui a motivé l'envoi immédiat contre eux des troupes Impériales.

D'autre part, le Prince de Monténégro, dans un long télégramme adressé à son Altesse le Grand Vézir, parlant d'une foule de griefs imaginaires, déclare, à son tour, que la situation équivoque des relations toujours tendues fait place dès aujourd'hui à la situation plus nette des hostilités déclarées.

Ainsi, ces deux Principautés ont mis fin à leurs tergiversations, et sont à l'heure qu'il est en guerre ouverte avec la Cour Suzeraine.

Je me ferai un devoir de vous télégraphier le résultat des engagements qui ont lieu sur trois points différents entre nos troupes et les Serviens.

Je vous communiquerai également par télégraphe, au fur et à mesure, l'issue des divers combats qui pourraient avoir lieu.

No. 33.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3, 3 P.M.)

Athens, July 3, 1876, 11·25 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

HER Majesty's Consul at Corfu having informed me the day before yesterday that cases of arms had been sent to Danubian Provinces there (sic) to Prevesa, and that six mountain guns and more than 1,000 loaded shells were in transit depôt at Corfu, destination said to be Montenegro, I telegraphed at once to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople; and latter (sic) communicated intelligence to Turkish Minister here.

Turkish Minister yesterday informed me that he had called upon Hellenic Government to seize the guns, and that they had promised to send orders to that effect.

No. 34.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

Constantinople, July 3, 1876, 4.15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IMPERIAL troops have driven back Servians, after important engagement four hours from Widdin, during which enemy lost 2,000. Turks have entered Servia, and taken possession of Saitchar.

No. 35.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

Constantinople, July 3, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

A DESPATCH received last night from the General commanding at Nisch stated that Servians crossed at three points; destroyed a Turkish guard-house with their artillery; and that fighting was still going on.

He asks for reinforcements. Governor of Bosnia also reports that some submitted districts have risen, and gone to the mountains in order to join Servians.

No. 36.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

Mostar, July 3, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

MONTENEGRO declared war with Turkey yesterday. In consequence of Servian demand for Bosnia, Turkish troops are returning towards frontier, and I hear hostilities have commenced near Nisch.

No. 37.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)*

Rome, July 3, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to solemn warning, the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs said to Italian Representative that he could add nothing to the pacific counsels of Italy, and that now the die was cast.

No. 38.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

Salonica, July 3, 1876, 5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

A LONG telegram, which the Prince of Montenegro wired to the Porte this morning, ends by declaration of war against Turkey. Yesterday Montenegrins began war, but were defeated at Podgoritza.

No. 39.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

Bosna Serai, June 23, 1876.

(No. 10. Political.)

My Lord,

THE only event of importance this week has been that Moukhtar Pasha has reached Nichsich without any opposition on the part of the insurgents. Moukhtar Pasha telegraphed this news himself to Haidar Effendi, and Aali Pasha telegraphed it to the Governor-General here, with a request that it might be communicated to me. His Excellency stated that Moukhtar Pasha had conveyed 1,800 loads of provisions to Nichsich, and that he had sent back his baggage-train to bring up the remainder of what he had collected at Gatzko. It was supposed that he would return to Gatzko himself on the 21st or 22nd.

When Moukhtar Pasha started for Nichsich, it was supposed at Mostar that he would have encountered an overwhelming force of Montenegrins and insurgents in the Duga Pass; and it was said that at the same time some 4,000 insurgents were prepared to march on Mostar. A great many Christian families in easy circumstances had quitted that town, and there was a general alarm. It was said also that on this occasion Servia would enter Bosnia, and declare war. None of these eventualities have

* Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.

occurred, and it is now supposed that Montenegro has been made to understand that the struggle must not be prolonged, and that the signal for pacification has been given. Some imagine that an attempt will be made to crush Moukhtar Pasha on his return through the Duga Pass; but I do not think this possible, or that it will be attempted, as the General in going to Nichsich will have secured all the position and heights commanding the road, and will not have failed to secure his retreat.

The Servians, also, in spite of what has been so often predicted, remain, generally, within their frontier. A few days ago an inroad was made by a band at Novi Varosh, but it was promptly driven back.

I am not in any way informed as to what influence, if any, has been brought to bear on Montenegro or the insurgents in this matter, or what are the motives which have induced them to allow Moukhtar Pasha so easily to revictual Nichsich. I can only imagine them; but I cannot avoid considering this event as an indication of an approaching pacific arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 40.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 64. Political. Confidential.)
Ragusa, June 23, 1876.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 49 of the 6th instant, respecting the expected arrival here of Mr. Stillman, the "Times" correspondent, I have the honour to report that that gentleman reached Ragusa this morning, and proceeded at once to Cettigné.

He found time, however, to call upon me, and mentioned that two days before he left London he had had an interview with your Lordship; that he had also seen Lord Granville; and that he thought that he had obtained, during the past two months, an accurate knowledge of the state of public opinion in England upon the Eastern question. I told him that in that case he could do as much good here among his Slav friends by letting them know the truth, as his letters in the "Times" would do with the English public.

I was glad to observe in Mr. Stillman's language a decided and outspoken opinion upon Russian policy; and I can only hope that he will not mince matters in talking with Prince Nikita. In countries like these the "Times" is regarded as at once the oracle of Her Majesty's Government, and the exponent of the intelligent opinion of Great Britain; and its accredited correspondent, fresh as he is from interviews with your Lordship and with the Leader of the Opposition, may speak with an authority, and be listened to with a deference, which no other journalist, whatever be his nationality, could command.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 41.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 67. Political.)
Ragusa, June 26, 1876.
My Lord,

I HAD the honour this morning to address to Sir Andrew Buchanan, for communication to your Lordship, a telegram respecting the warlike preparations of Montenegro, and of the contiguous Dalmatian districts. I received information from a usually trustworthy source that all the Montenegrin force was getting under arms; that the men were being provided with eight days' rations; and that every procurable horse and mule was being purchased for transport service. Also that the inhabitants of the district of Crivoscia and of the Bocche di Cattaro were arming, and that everything indicated promptness on the part of Montenegro. The Turkish Consul-General came to me with the same information; and as I knew that telegraphic communication had been passing between Cettigné and the Russian Consulate up till 3 in the morning, I

thought it as well to telegraph to your Lordship in the sense above-mentioned, and to advise Danish Effendi to do the same to Constantinople.

Late this evening I had an opportunity of asking the Russian acting Consul-General what he knew of Montenegrin armaments; and he said that, in spite of the general conviction that Montenegro was meditating open war, he did not himself believe that anything of the sort was intended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 42.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 68. Political.)
Ragusa, June 27, 1876.
My Lord,

MOUKHTAR PASHA has informed the Turkish Consulate here that he has provisioned the fortress of Nichsich for one year, and the town for three months.

The Turks seem puzzled at the facility with which the Marshal has been enabled on this occasion to pass the Douga. I imagine, however, that Prince Nikita was alarmed at the demonstrations made by the Turks on his southern and eastern frontiers, and was convinced that his territory would be invaded at once if he allowed any attack to be made on Moukhtar Pasha.

General Jovanovics has received a report that fighting was going on between the Turks and the insurgents at Nevesinje where 1,000 of the latter, who had been on a marauding expedition, were surrounded by 3,000 Turkish troops. The report added that 2,000 insurgents had gone from Banjani to relieve their comrades. The Turkish Consulate knows nothing of this affair, and I have no other confirmation of it; nor am I likely to hear the truth before the departure of the early mail to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 43.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 425. Confidential.)
Vienna, July 1, 1876.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith extracts from three private letters which I have received from Belgrade, reporting the proceedings of the Government and the state of things in the Principality.

Although your Lordship will have already received more recent information by telegraph of the events passing there, the inclosures are not altogether without interest, as indicating the influences and the considerations under which the Prince and his Ministers have been acting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

Extracts from Letters received from Belgrade.

Le 24 Juin, 1876.

LA situation est très-tendue; on ne saurait se dissimuler plus longtemps. D'après mes prévisions il n'y a qu'une quinzaine de jours qui nous séparent de la guerre des Serbes contre les Turcs. Tous les hommes astreints au service militaire se trouvent sous les armes, y compris les réserves; la majeure partie de la milice marche ou est déjà sur la frontière et le reste de soldats s'y rendront sous peu de jours. Cela étant il me paraît impossible que le Gouvernement Serbe puisse encore revenir à une politique de paix. Le Cabinet actuel s'est trop énoncé, il est allé trop loin pour pouvoir rétrograder. La guerre se fera donc sûrement, il ne faut plus en douter. Voyant de près

ce qui se passe ici, je ne puis m'expliquer l'optimisme qui règne à Vienne et à Pesth. . . . . A cette occasion je dois vous faire remarquer que l'on travaille beaucoup pour le prétendant Pierre Karageorgevics que l'on croit soutenu par l'Autriche; ce parti, qui grandit journellement, exploite la situation actuelle contre la dynastie Obrénovics. Je poursuis ce mouvement avec toute l'attention qu'il mérite sous tous les points de vue.

M. Ristits avoue lui-même qu'il n'est plus le maître de la situation; il jouait jusqu'à présent le même jeu qu'il avait joué sous la Régence. . . . . L'en est de même à cette heure entre MM. Ristits et Gruics; M. Ristits dit que Gruics ne veut pas tandis que Gruics se cache derrière Ristits. Tous ceux qui connaissent les deux personnages savent parfaitement que ce sont des caractères indépendents qui ne peuvent pas se subordonner et que, s'il y a un supérieur, c'est toujours M. Ristits. Mais les événements ont emporté même M. Ristits, qui désirait obtenir la Bosnie par voie diplomatique. Voyant qu'il ne réussira pas il voulait donner sa démission, que le Prince Milan n'a point accepté, en disant à M. Ristits: "Vous avez toujours poussé à la guerre et excité le peuple; eh bien, maintenant faites la guerre; je ne vous permets pas de vous retirer en ce moment." En cela le Prince agit sagement, car Ristits retiré des affaires rejetterait toute la faute sur le Prince.

L'emprunt forcé n'a pas réussi, et ils veulent maintenant mettre des billets de banque ayant cours forcé jusqu'à la concurrence de deux milliers de ducats.

M. Maties, Sénateur et ami intime de M. Ristits, est de retour de Cettigné, où il a été envoyé pour rapprocher le Monténégro à la Serbie; il passait par Agram, où il recueillait de l'argent pour les Serbes; à l'entendre parler, on dirait que sa double mission a réussi.

Le bateau à vapeur "Deligrade" appartenant à la Serbie est allé prendre des armes venant de la Russie; il arrivera demain avec quatre autres navires chargées d'armes et de munitions.

Le Ministre de la Guerre, M. Nicolics, prendra le commandement de l'Armée de Sagtchar, et le Général Zach gerera le Ministère. Les anciens Ministres Conservateurs, MM. Zumics, Mijatvoics, Pirochanatz, etc., sont partis ce matin pour la frontière en qualité d'intendants de l'armée. Un grand nombre de volontaires passent journellement la frontière Hongroise pour entrer en Serbie et l'achat de chevaux continue toujours. En terminant cette lettre je soutiens que la guerre n'est pas populaire; on la fera parceque le Gouvernement le veut; les hommes pleurent en quittant leurs familles.

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

Extract from a Letter from Belgrade.

Belgrade, le 26 Juin, 1876.

LE départ du Prince Milan pour l'armée s'effectuera après-demain le 28 courant; son arrivée à la frontière sera le commencement des hostilités contres les Turcs. Il est même fort à craindre que le Général Chernaieff n'attende les ordres venant de Belgrade pour entrer en campagne. La guerre commencera donc dans le délai que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous fixer dans mes précédents rapports; c'est l'œuvre de M. Ristits et ses Omladinistes. Depuis leur arrivée au pouvoir on pouvait prévoir ce dénouement auquel la Russie a contribué une large part.

On forme en ce moment une septième division composée de réservistes. Les sept divisions composent l'armée Serbe ont trois brigades chacune, de sorte que toute l'armée Serbe comptera 12,000 hommes sur papier. La plupart de ces combattants appartient à la milice sans discipline et sans connaissances militaires.

Le Gouvernement Serbe compte sur le concours de Monténégro et, en dernier lieu, sur celui de la Russie; l'avenir prouvera si cet espoir est fondé ou non.

L'unique embarras de M. Ristits est la question de savoir comment il doit s'y prendre avant l'ouverture des hostilités vis-à-vis la Porte Ottomane et des Grandes Puissances, car l'envoi de M. Christits à Constantinople, annoncé dans la note que le Prince Milan a adressé au Grand Vizier, a été abandonné. Ce qu'il y a de probable c'est que M. Ristits télégraphiera à l'Agent Serbe à Constantinople, M. Magazinovics, de demander à la Porte une concession territoriale pour la Serbie et le Monténégro, et à accorder à la Porte un très bref délai pour donner une réponse; si cette réponse est négative M. Magazinovics demandera ses passeports et retournera à Belgrade en même temps que la guerre commencera. Il est aussi probable que les Agents

politiques des Grandes Puissances seront instruits de cette démarche du Gouvernement Serbe.

L'état de siége sera proclamé en deux ou trois jours. Le décret ordonnant cette mesure se trouve depuis ce matin sous presse et j'ai été déjà à même de le voir; il renferme cinquante paragraphes contenant les articles de guerre pour les soldats et à la fin il est dit que ces lois sont de vigueur aussi pour tous les citoyens exempts du service militaire; ce décret est signé seulement par le Ministre de la Guerre et paraîtra en 5,000 exemplaires en deux jours d'ici; j'ai pris aussi mes mesures pour avoir la Proclamation que le Prince adressera à la nation Serbe, avant qu'elle soit imprimée.

Je viens d'apprendre d'une bonne source que l'Autriche-Hongrie postera un corps d'observation sur ses frontières du Danube et de la Save, aussitôt que la guerre entre la Serbie et la Turquie aura commencé.

Inclosure 3 in No. 43.

Extract from a Letter from Belgrade.

Belgrade, le 27 Juin, 1876.

J'AI eu aujourd'hui un entretien avec M. Ristits, qui me paraissait maintenant moins préoccupé qu'il y a quinze jours. Il a toujours cette illusion que la Porte, voyant la Serbie et le Monténégro tout préparés à entrer en campagne, cèdera au dernier moment en faisant des concessions territoriales dont j'ai eu l'honneur de vous parler à maintes reprises. Il est très rassuré sur la non-intervention des Puissances étrangères et aussi sur le concours du Monténégro, dont les troupes cherchent déjà à faire jonction avec celles de la Serbie; il est enchanté de l'abstention de l'Autriche-Hongrie, et il compte sur l'appui de la Russie et sur la sympathie des Gouvernements Italien et Français. Si la Porte ne cède pas au dernier moment, la guerre commencera le 5 Juillet prochain.

* * * * *

Le Prince Milan se rendra Jeudi prochain au quartier général, et son état-major le précède d'un jour. Ce dernier partira donc demain.

Les Slaves du Midi de la Hongrie ont déjà fourni à la Serbie 8,000 volontaires. Il en passe journellement surtout par Obrenovatz et Mitrovitz.

Je viens d'apprendre que le Métropolitain de Belgrade ira en Russie après le départ du Prince qu'il désir bénir avant l'ouverture des hostilités. Ce prélat Orthodoxe est Omladiniste et l'agent le plus zélé de la Russie en Serbie. Le but de son voyage en Russie est d'y recueillir de l'argent et faire la propagande Panslaviste. Tous les soldats Serbes, excepté la dernière réserve destinée à renforcer l'armée sur la Drina, sont partis pour la frontière; il règne ici en ce moment un calme lourd semblable à celui qui précède l'orage.

No. 44.

The Duc Decazes to the Marquis d'Harcourt.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by the Marquis d'Harcourt, July 4.)

Versailles, le 3 Juillet, 1876.

M. le Marquis,

LE Gouvernement Roumain s'est préoccupé des difficultés que pourrait lui créer l'ouverture des hostilités entre la Porte et la Serbie dans le cas où la flotille Turque remonterait le Danube, et on nous dit que son Représentant à Constantinople a demandé officiellement que ce fleuve fût déclaré neutre.

D'après ce que me mande M. le Comte de Bourgoing, le Ministre d'Italie aurait reçu l'ordre d'appuyer cette proposition, Sir H. Elliot aurait conseillé à la Porte de l'accepter et l'Ambassadeur d'Autriche paraîtrait avoir tenu le même langage. Je ne m'explique pas très bien, je l'avoue, la combinaison qui a été suggérée en cette circonstance par le Cabinet de Bucharest et qui serait recommandée à Constantinople par plusieurs Puissances.

La liberté de la navigation du Danube a été proclamé par les Traités internationaux qu'il ne dépend pas de la Turquie seule de les modifier et avec les stipulations desquels une neutralisation du fleuve, dans le sens juridique de ce terme, ne semblerait pas compatible.

Je ne méconnais pas toutefois ce qu'il y a de légitime dans les appréhensions du Gouvernement Roumain. Celui-ci, en présence des événements qui se préparent, annonce

l'intention d'observer fidèlement les devoirs que la situation lui impose à l'égard de la Cour Suzeraine ; la Porte a tout intérêt à encourager ces dispositions loyales et à ménager les populations de la rive gauche du Danube qui, dans l'hypothèse d'un combat d'artillerie entre les canonnières Turques et les forts de la rive Serbe, seraient par suite de la configuration même des lieux le plus sérieusement exposées. Le Gouvernement Ottoman est également intéressé à éviter les complications qui ne manqueraient pas de se produire si des bâtiments appartenant à une nationalité étrangère venaient à être atteints par des projectiles échangées sur le Danube entre les parties belligérantes.

Il y a donc toute raison de conseiller à la Porte de s'abstenir en fait de toute opération de guerre sur le cours du Danube et de ne pas y envoyer des canonnières. Une recommandation formulée dans ces termes auprès du Gouvernement Turc répondrait pratiquement à l'objet que le Cabinet de Bucharest avait en vue sans soulever de difficiles questions de droit des gens. Je n'ai pas hésité pour ma part à inviter le Comte de Bourgoing à s'exprimer dans ces termes avec les Ministres du Sultan, et je verrais avec satisfaction que le Gouvernement de la Reine partageât mon sentiment à cet égard.

Je dois dire, du reste, que M. de Michel, dans sa correspondance, et M. Callimaki-Cattargi dans l'entretien qu'il a eu avec moi à ce sujet, s'étaient tous deux gardés de donner à l'incident les proportions inattendues qu'il paraît avoir pris à Constantinople et que l'offre que je faisais à l'Agent Roumain de donner à la Sublime Porte les conseils que je viens de vous indiquer paraissait le satisfaire.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) DECAZES.

No. 45.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

Serajevo, July 4, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF has arrived from Mostar. He has ordered a general arming of the people, who will be sent towards Servian frontier. The Servians who attacked the Turks at Nisch have been repulsed. They have also attacked at Belina, where there are few troops.

No. 46.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

Therapia, July 4, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AN official telegram announces a sanguinary battle at Shackheni, near Nisch. The Turks have taken eighteen guns and made many prisoners. Osman Pasha is advancing in the Servian territory.

No. 47.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

Serajevo, July 4, 1876, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TELEGRAPHIC reports have been received announcing the defeat of the Servians at Widdin, Nisch, and Belina, and of the Montenegrins at Podgoritza.

Turks enthusiastic and confident.

No. 48.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

Belgrade, July 4, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

GENERAL CHERNAIEFF reports that his army entered Turkish territory in three columns. One of these, under himself, took—with, it is said privately, considerable loss—an important strategical position beyond Nisch, while a second stormed another valuable position in front of that Turkish fort.

Servian division has likewise gone to Bosnia.

No. 49.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

Athens, July 4, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HEAR that the Government telegraphed yesterday to the King requesting His Majesty to hasten his return, and that Chamber is shortly to be convoked.

Perfect tranquillity prevails here.

No. 50.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

Vienna, July 4, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT ANDRASSY will leave with the Emperor on the 6th or 7th to meet the Emperor of Russia and Prince Gortchakow in Bohemia. I think it would be desirable that he should see your Lordship's note to Count Schouvaloff of the 29th ultimo before this meeting, but as it was only communicated to me under flying seal to Sir Henry Elliot, I do not feel justified in doing it without special authority from your Lordship. Pray let me know if you think communication would be expedient.

No. 51.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 317.)

Foreign Office, July 4, 1876.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the language held by your Excellency to Count Andrassy relative to the prospects of Servia and Montenegro joining the insurgents, as reported in your despatch No. 419 of the 28th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 52.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 318.)

Foreign Office, July 4, 1876.

Sir,

COUNT BEUST informed me to-day that he had received a despatch from Vienna communicating to him a conversation which had taken place between Count Andrassy and the Turkish Ambassador.

Count Andrassy had mentioned to the Ambassador the rumours which were current as to approaching operations of Turkish vessels of war in the Danube, which had caused a stop to be taken at Bucharest by the Servian Government, and had given rise to an interpellation at Constantinople on the part of Roumania. He had stated that the Austro-Hungarian Government had no intention to discuss the principle of such a measure, but that they could not approve it, as it would impede the free navigation of the Danube and would cause Roumania, which had hitherto remained tranquil, to allow herself to be dragged into the struggle; for these reasons he had declared that the Imperial Government would be forced to request the Porte to refrain from taking this step.

The Turkish Ambassador had replied that the Porte had no intention to send expeditions of the nature referred to.

Count Andrassy had, he said, unfortunately learnt from the Imperial Consul-General at Bucharest that a superior employé of the Roumanian Government had been sent to Rustchuk, where he had been informed by the Turkish Governor-General that the fears of his Government on the subject were entirely without foundation, as wooden

vessels would not be exposed to the fire of the Servian batteries, and iron-clad vessels drew too much water to enter that part of the Danube; the Turks, he was assured, did not dream of attacking Servia from the river.

Count Andrassy had concluded by expressing his opinion that, under these circumstances, this matter would not give rise to further discussion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 53.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 319.) *Foreign Office, July 4, 1876.*

Sir,

COUNT BEUST called upon me to-day and read to me a despatch which had been addressed by Count Andrassy to the Austrian Ambassador at Berlin.

In this despatch Count Andrassy observed that he might have left the Russian proposal of granting autonomy to the insurgent Turkish provinces to be dealt with by the Porte, which would certainly have refused it, or by England, who might probably have declined to accede to it: but that he preferred to express with all frankness the views of the Austro-Hungarian Government. He said that he agreed with the remark which I had made to Count Schouvaloff (in the conversation recorded in my despatch to Lord A. Loftus No. 378 of the 14th ultimo), that the raising of the question as to the interference of the Powers respecting the future position of the provinces was premature; he agreed also in my observation, recorded in the same despatch, that, in the event of a Turkish victory, the insurgents might be induced to accept less than they had originally asked; but he was not prepared to admit that, in the contrary event of a Turkish defeat, any other solution for the question should be sought than that on which the Powers had already agreed. It was his belief that either party in the struggle might have strength to get the upper hand, but that neither would be strong enough to reap all the fruits of a victory; in that case a renewed action of the Powers in union would become necessary; and, when the time arrived, he should count on the adhesion of all Europe, but he should especially reckon upon the concert of the three Empires.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 54.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 330.) *Foreign Office, July 4, 1876.*

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government approve the advice which, as reported in your despatch No. 277 of the 21st ultimo, your Excellency gave Caboulí Pasha to communicate to M. de Giers copies of the orders sent by the Porte to the Governors of Bosnia and the Herzegovina proclaiming an amnesty for the insurgents, and the cessation of military operations for six weeks, to allow them to make their submission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 55.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 422.) *Foreign Office, July 4, 1876.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's having again spoken to the Grand Vizier on the subject of the cruelties with which the suppression of the Bulgarian insurrection has been accompanied, as reported in your despatch No. 645 of the 14th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 56.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 27.) *Scutari, June 24, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 25 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the complete revictualling of Nichsich by Moukhtar Pasha without the slightest opposition having been met by the Turkish troops whilst effecting the operation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, June 21, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Moukhtar Pasha returned yesterday to Gazko, after having conveyed into Nichsich, by two separate marches from Stolaz, 3,800 horse loads of provisions. These are sufficient to subsist the garrison for one year and the inhabitants for three months.

Moukhtar Pasha has thus, by traversing five times the Duga Pass since the 15th instant, without meeting with the slightest molestation from either insurgents or Montenegrins, made it more manifest than ever that the insurrection in the Herzegovina is under the complete control of the Prince of Montenegro and his abettors.

On the 18th instant, a battalion of Redifs arrived at Antivari from Smyrna.

No. 57.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 508.) *Foreign Office, July 5, 1876.*

My Lord,

IT is desirable, under present circumstances, that Prince Bismarck should clearly understand the attitude of Her Majesty's Government as regards the insurrection in Turkey. This attitude is explained in a manner which admits of no misconception in the three despatches to Lord A. Loftus and the note to Count Schouvaloff, of which copies are inclosed; and I should wish your Excellency to take the earliest opportunity of placing in the Prince's hands copies of these papers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 58.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 321.) *Foreign Office, July 5, 1876.*

Sir,

AS it is desirable that Count Andrassy should be under no misapprehension as to the attitude of Her Majesty's Government in the present crisis, I should wish your Excellency to communicate to him the note which I addressed to Count Schouvaloff on the 29th ultimo. It being probable that his Excellency may leave Vienna, in attendance on the Emperor, before you can receive this despatch, I have anticipated by telegraph the instructions which it contains.

A copy of the note, which has already passed through your Excellency's hands, is herewith inclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 59.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 69. Political.)

Ragusa, June 28, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAD some conversation this morning with the Prefect of this district respecting the condition of the Herzegovinian refugees. In his opinion there is much exaggeration in the reports of their destitution, and he explains this by the fact that the Slav Committees are doing all in their power to aggravate the situation. For instance, three days ago a woman was stoned to death by some of the refugees in the suburb in which I live, for the sake of a few florins which she had in her possession. It was immediately reported that she had died of starvation. Again, the refugees had been accustomed to assemble every day by hundreds in front of the Prefecture, and could not be dispersed without the assistance of the military. Consequently they are now only permitted to pass through the town gates in small parties. The result is that for several days they have made demonstrations at all the Consulates and the houses situated in this suburb, and declared that they are dying of hunger. This, the Prefect says, is utterly untrue; they always receive quite enough, not only for their own subsistence, but to spare for their friends in the insurgent camps.

The Prefect said also that it was a pity that the real truth was not better known and understood. There was no chance for the local authorities against the Slav Committees. The authorities had honestly tried to make the refugees return; but the terrorism exercised by the Committees was far more than a match for their exhortations. Moreover if a few of the refugees did venture home, they were at once driven back by the insurgents, and he could assure me that of the 18,000 refugees in his district, a large number would never have left the Herzegovina at all, had they not been forced to do so by the threats of the insurgent chiefs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 60.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 427.)

Vienna, July 2, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 423 of yesterday, inclosing extracts from letters which I had received from Belgrade, I have now the honour to forward to your Lordship an extract from a further letter which I received this morning from the same place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Extract from a Letter received from Belgrade, dated June 29, 1876.

LE Prince Milan est parti ce matin en allant par Semendria à Velcupria, Deligrade et à Alexinatz; il a été précédé hier par le grand Etat-Major sous le Chef Formovics, nommé maladif, qui était sous le Cabinet Marinovics Ministre des Travaux Publics. M. Formovics a fait ses études militaires en France et on le croit capable, ce qu'il aura bientôt à prouver.

Avant d'entrer en campagne le Prince adressera une Proclamation à la nation Serbe: cette Proclamation s'imprimera demain et sera distribuée Lundi prochain; elle explique les motifs pour lesquels le Prince Milan se voit obligé de faire la guerre tout en reconnaissant la suzeraineté de la Porte Ottomane. Ce document élaboré par M. Ristits est un tissu de mensonges, de paradoxes et d'hypocrisie.

Le parti Conservateur auquel appartiennent tous les Serbes honnêtes intègres et aussi les plus éclairés sont très mécontents de la politique du Cabinet Omladiniste Ristits-Groutics qui a provoqué la guerre, ce parti est également mécontent de M. Kurzoff, qu'il rend aussi responsable de tout ce qui est arrivé et arrivera encore, parcequ'il a d'abord conseillé l'active et en dernier temps tenu un langage équivoque malgré les instructions reçues de Pétersbourg. Quoiqu'il en soit M. Kurzoff continue à être tout-puissant; le

Gouvernement actuel n'agit que d'après les conseils de l'Agent Russe. Demain partira d'ici M. Belimarkovics, ancien Ministre de la Guerre sous la Régence; il est envoyé par le Gouvernement Serbe pour contracter un emprunt en Hollande et pour acheter des armes; M. Belimarkovics sera à Vienne Dimanche prochain. L'état de siége sera proclamé demain et l'action commencera Mardi prochain. La pénurie d'argent ne permet pas au Gouvernement Serbe d'attendre quelque temps une fois que toute l'armée sera échelonnée sur la frontière.

Les intrigues du prétendant Karageorgevics vont grandissant; je suis déjà sur la trâce et quand j'aurai saisi les fils de ces menées je m'empresserai de vous avertir. Le Prince Milan n'est pas même sûr de Ristits, pourvu qu'il n'arrive pas malheur à ce jeune Prince qui est fort à plaindre.

No. 61.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 6.)*

Vienna, July 6, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I READ to-day to Count Andrássy your Lordship's note to Count Schouvaloff. His Excellency thanked me warmly for the communication, as he said Prince Gortchakow had written on the 1st instant that your Lordship had entirely agreed with him, and his Excellency alone opposed his views.

No. 62.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 6.)

Belgrade, July 6, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

SERVIAN official bulletins report taking of Akpalanka on the Balkan (high?) road while in Bosnia; Belina, (a?) fortified place, has also fallen into their power.

With regard to engagements with the Turkish force from Widdin, these admit very heavy fighting about Saitchar, and that Turks have had at one time the advantage; but reinforcements are being sent, and the Turkish advance on the Servian territory is not accepted as decisive.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 63.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 38. Political.)

Salonica, June 23, 1876.

My Lord,

AFTER posting my Report No. 37, Political, of the 22nd instant, I received a copy of the Circular Instruction referred to therein, as having been addressed by the Pasha of Salonica to his subordinate Governors, pointing out the line of policy they are to pursue towards the population under their jurisdiction; and I hasten to inclose a French translation of the same for the information of your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Circular Instructions addressed by the Pasha of Salonica to the Mutessarifs, Kaimakams, and Mudirs under his Jurisdiction.

(Traduction.)

LE changement de Gouvernement, en faisant disparaître les mauvaises intentions qui avaient surgi aux sein des populations de quelques localités et dont la cause était l'administration précaire du règne précédent, a ouvert une nouvelle ère de prospérité et de

* Repeated to Berlin, Rome, Constantinople, and St. Petersburgh.

bonheur publics. Le temps est enfin venu de s'occuper d'un commun accord des moyens d'amélioration et de bien-être qu'il faudra employer pour relever la patrie et la nation. Quoiqu'il soit incontestable que toutes les classes de la population intimement unies n'aient aucun sentiment ni pensée de désaccord, et qu'elles soient disposées à oublier les mauvaises impressions du règne précédent, nous avons décidé néanmoins, dans le but d'augmenter les causes d'union et d'harmonie parmi toutes les classes de la population, de publier un manifeste aux habitants de la province, et nous vous en envoyons ci-inclus des exemplaires en langues différentes pour que vous en fassiez usage.

Le but que nous nous proposons d'atteindre par ce manifeste, et que vous expliquerez, consiste à détruire les mauvaises impressions provoquées dans l'esprit du peuple par suite des insinuations ennemies ; et de rechauffer, surtout, les relations réciproques de toutes les races en faisant radicalement disparaître les causes et les penchants de désaccord.

Par conséquent il est à désirer que les employés supérieurs qui se trouvent à la tête des affaires soient à jour des impressions et des tempéréments des populations et s'efforcent à trouver les meilleurs moyens de leur inculquer les idées de concorde et d'union.

Le moyen le plus efficace d'inspirer au peuple ces idées d'ordre et de bonne harmonie consiste à encourager les efforts entrepris dans le but de développer le moral du pays, et de chercher le mode d'exciter les populations à prendre des mesures d'utilité publique. Par exemple, de même qu'on avait créé des caisses d'épargne et construit des routes carrossables on avait cherché à donner impulsion à l'agriculture et au commerce. Mais plus tard, on s'était éloigné dans la pratique du but à atteindre, en détournant l'argent de ces caisses d'épargne de leur destination primitive.

On avait aussi abandonné les routes, et, en d'autres matières, manqué au résultat désiré.

Nous vous recommandons, donc, très sérieusement de faire grande attention à ne pas rendre infructueux les efforts de la population dans le but d'utilité publique; et de chercher à gagner ces mêmes populations en leur montrant leurs vrais intérêts qui dépendent de la réalisation qu'elles auront dans les mesures prises par le Gouvernement.

Veuillez nous communiquer exactement les résultats positifs que vos recommendations produiront.

Le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Salonique,
(L.S.) ESSEREF.

Juin, 1876.

No. 64.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 39. Political.) *Salonica, June 23, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting that large reinforcements and supplies of ammunition are about to be dispatched to Novi Bazar, near the Servian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, June 23, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Porte at Salonica has received orders from the Porte to make arrangements with the Manager of the Salonica-Uesup Railway for the early conveyance of eight battalions of infantry to Mitrovitza.

These troops are shortly expected here from Smyrna, and are to reinforce Mehmed Ali Pasha's corps d'armée at Novi Bazar, near the Servian frontier.

Very large supplies of ammunition will also be dispatched to the same point near the frontier, and the transport of which by railway to Mitrovitza will cost 8,000*l*.

I am assured that Mehmed Ali Pasha's army is in good condition, and prepared to occupy Servia at the shortest notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 65.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 42. Political.) *Salonica, June 25, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy and translation of a Proclamation which has been published in the name of The Grand Vizier, recommending the Mahommedans and Bulgarians to live in harmony together.

Many printed copies of the above, in Turkish and Bulgarian, have been received by the authorities, with orders to distribute them in the villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Proclamation.

(Traduction.)

Musulmans et Chrétiens,

Vous savez tous que la principale condition de bonheur et d'indépendance dont la société a besoin, exige de la part de chacun les plus grands efforts dans le but de protéger les intérêts de la patrie commune. Attendu que l'intérêt particulier dépend nécessairement de la prospérité de la patrie, des intérêts généraux et de la sûreté publique. Or, la sûreté publique ne peut avoir lieu qu'avec l'accord de tous : son accroissement consiste pour ceux qui sont nés dans le même pays à s'abstenir des haines et des intrigues personnelles à ne pas empiéter sur l'honneur, la vie et la fortune de son voisin, et enfin à vivre en paix et conformément aux règles de la justice et la conscience. En effet c'est en respectant la justice et le droit de tous que les peuples les plus civilisés et les mieux policés ont atteint le degré de prospérité que nous leur connaissons.

Vous aussi, Musulmans et Bulgares, en travaillant d'un commun accord et en bonne harmonie à augmenter le commerce et l'agriculture, vous étiez auprès des autres nations un véritable objet d'admiration! Vous avez malheureusement vu qu'une bande de brigands, qui ne voulaient qu'assouvir leurs propres passions en semant la discorde parmi les Musulmans et les Bulgares, ont causé votre ruin.

Grâce à Dieu ces signes de discorde, qui du reste n'étaient entretenus que par des personnes incapables de distinguer le bien et le mal, n'existent plus: le bonheur et la sûreté de votre patrie reviennent, grâce à votre accord et votre harmonie.

Votre devoir consiste à présent à oublier vos haines et vos passions et de vivre, Turcs et Bulgares, dans le même accord qui a existé parmis vous depuis des siècles.

Attendu que, à la suite de l'élévation au Trône de notre auguste Padichah Sultan Murad Han, son Haut Impérial désire à faire ses sujets sans distinction de race ni de culte la liberté, la sûreté et le bonheur. En effet, c'est dans ce but, c'est-à-dire pour vous faire comprendre vos devoirs et vous encourager à travailler pour le commerce, l'agriculture et l'amélioration de votre patrie, que Sa Majesté ordonne d'envoyer parmi vous des envoyés spéciaux.

Dieu dans sa bonté infinie veut votre bonheur et vous oblige à obéir à ces conseils.

Il dépend de vous maintenant de vous soumettre aux volontés de notre Padichah, de reconnaître ses bienfaits, de songer surtout que vous êtes les mêmes sujets et nés dans la même patrie, et de ne plus prononcer des mots qui puissent porter atteinte à la sûreté générale. Tous cela vous ne pouvez l'obtenir qu'en abandonnant les conseils d'intrigants, et en priant pour notre Souverain. J'espère qu'en vous soumettant sincèrement aux conseils que je viens de vous donner vous démontrerez votre fidélité et votre conviction.

Le Grand Vezir,
(Signé) MEHMED RUCHDI.

No. 66.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—Received July 7.

(No. 13. Political.)
Salonica, June 27, 1876.

My Lord,

THE inclosed is a translation of a Circular telegram which, I am assured, has been received by the provincial authorities from the Porte, instructing them to call upon the loyal inhabitants to assist the Government to cover the extraordinary expenses it is forced to incur for military purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT

Inclosure in No. 66.

Telegram received by the Pasha of Salonica from the Sublime Porte, under date June 15/27, 1876.

(Traduction.)

IL est généralement connu que depuis quelques temps le Gouvernement a été forcé de mobiliser une grande quantité de soldats afin de faire face aux événements que la mauvaise administration du Gouvernement précédent avait fait surgir, et qui a par conséquence causé des frais énormes. Bien que le Trésor fournit dans ce cas toutes les sommes qu'il peut fournir, vu l'importance de l'affaire, et afin de faire face aux dépenses de l'armée qui se trouve en présence de l'ennemie, il a été décidé d'en appeler au concours de la nation et de voir que, par leur patriotisme et leur richesse, peuvent venir en aide.

Ayant déjà écrit à vos susdites autorités provinciales, nous prions votre Excellence d'ouvrir des souscriptions dans le vilayet de Salonique auprès des hauts fonctionnaires, des personnes ; seulement dites-le comparative d'une manière convenable l'état des choses, et encouragez à la susdite Porte sur et à assurer le fait, de donateurs, ayant soin d'inscrire leurs noms.

No. 67.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 654.)
Therapia, June 22, 1876.

My Lord,

THE proceedings and language of the Russian Embassy would indicate a belief that some serious occurrence is to be anticipated, but whether the apprehension is really felt, or whether it is assumed for the purpose of creating a panic which may lead to a disturbance, which General Ignatiew would certainly see with satisfaction, is more than I can venture to say.

The language of the members of the Embassy to those whom they are in the habit of consulting much of is that a massacre of the Christians is threatened, and Mahomedan fanaticism is spoken of as being roused to the highest pitch.

This is certainly not correct as regards the capital, and is not in accordance with my own information from the provinces, except in those districts where the hostility of the two communities has been roused by the agents of the Slav Committees, who have been working under foreign inspiration to bring about collisions.

An uneasy feeling is afloat in reference to the constitutional reforms now in preparation, and some persons apprehend that if the new project seems calculated to throw too much power into the hands of the Christians, the fanatical section of the Sclavs may make demonstrations against it.

I have never concealed from your Lordship that any political movement or disturbance in this country might quickly assume a character which would expose the Christians to any danger, but the Ministers declared me that they have no fear of anything of the kind occurring.

I should, therefore, rather attribute the uneasiness felt at the Russian Embassy to the knowledge of the prevailing irritation against General Ignatiew personally.

He sends away his children to-day's steamer to Odessa, under the care of his mother-in-law, and the wives of many of the other members of the Embassy have already left or are on the point of leaving.

A second Russian gunboat has arrived and has taken the place of the despatch-boat

which invariably lies just opposite the Russian Embassy at Buyukdéré, and every night thirty men are landed from it to keep guard within the Embassy, while, I am told, some Cossacks or Montenegrins patrol the grounds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 68.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 660.)
Therapia, June 24, 1876.

My Lord,

COUNT ZICHY spoke to me yesterday of the anxiety of his Government that the Porte should endeavour to detach Montenegro from Servia by means of concessions to be made to Prince Nicholas, and he asked me to join him in urging this course upon the Turkish Government.

I said I had already done so, but proposed to repeat the advice in the strongest terms, the news of the unopposed victualling of Nicsich by Moukhtar Pasha making the moment particularly favourable.

I was able in the afternoon to convey a message to the Grand Vizier, through one of the most influential of the Ministers, representing that he should send a message to the Prince of Montenegro attributing the absence of opposition to the expedition to the salutary influence of the Prince, and saying that when tranquility was restored the Porte would be willing to see what it was possible to do to meet his wishes in reference to the matters which he had at heart.

It would not, I believe, be possible to induce the Porte to make a direct promise of concessions of territory at a moment when it is so generally acknowledged that the insurrection has only been kept alive by the covert assistance of the Principality, but a communication indirectly implying that this would be done if a different course of action is observed would possibly be of use.

There are districts bordering upon Montenegro which it would be a positive advantage to Turkey to place under the administration of the Prince.

The Porte exercises no authority over, and derives no revenue from, them.

According to Mr. Upton's reports the inhabitants of these semi-independent districts are now the only real insurgents, and although they nominally obey the orders they receive from Montenegro, the Prince cannot be held directly responsible for the act of those who are not his own subjects, as he would become if the districts in question were placed under his administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 69.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 661.)
Therapia, June 24, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH the exception of General Ignatiew all my colleagues appear to consider it certain that Servia will very soon make an attack upon the Turkish frontier, but the Ottoman Ministers whom I saw yesterday still doubted that the Principality will venture upon an invasion which would lead to the immediate occupation of its own territory.

However, they push forward their military preparations with increased energy; but while they admit the difficulties they would have to encounter if forced to attempt an occupation of Montenegro, they express an exaggerated confidence of the ease with which they could dispose of Servia.

They continue to give solemn assurances that they have no intention of attacking Montenegro themselves, but they will turn all their available resources against the Prince's policy.

I am assured upon the highest authority that there are along the Servian frontier very nearly forty battalions, which may be reckoned at about 630 men each; and upon an attack being made by the Servians, the Turks will at once enter the Principality at the most convenient and undefended point.

In addition to this regular force there would also be from 20,000 to 30,000 Albanian

and Circassian irregulars, the employment of whom will no doubt be accompanied by their usual revolting excesses.

When this is pointed out to the Turks they answer that they know it and regret it, but that in a struggle for the existence of the Empire, they are bound to employ all the means within their reach, and whatever excesses may take place those who bring on an unprovoked and aggressive war must bear the responsibility of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 70.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 664. Confidential.) *Therapia, June 24, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAD yesterday a long conversation with Midhat Pasha, the first I have been able to have with him since the change of Sovereigns.

Midhat Pasha is the one man upon whom the hopes of the reforming party of Turkey repose, and is, beyond all comparison, the most important person in the Empire, and it is he to whom has been entrusted the preparation of the new form of Government to be adopted.

Your Lordship has already been informed that in Midhat Pasha's opinion the sole hope of the regeneration of his country depends upon the adoption of a system based upon the equality of all the Sultan's subjects, and insuring some efficient control over the acts of the Administration.

A change so radical, and at the same time so indispensable, could not be carried out without provoking the opposition of a large number of the hitherto dominant community, and I confess that I was not myself without some apprehension that Midhat Pasha might insist upon carrying out his principle further than it would be prudent or desirable to attempt at once.

It was therefore satisfactory to find that what he proposes to bring forward is so moderate that, although it will no doubt cause some disappointment among the more ardent reformers, it will give less chance of rousing the jealousy of the Mahommedan masses.

He adheres to his principle of having a controlling Council or Assembly, partly named by the Government and partly elective, Christians being admitted to it as well as Mussulmans.

Its functions would be very limited, and principally confined to controlling the financial expenditure.

He wants, he says, to make a beginning, and not to break down by aiming at the impossible.

He had the day before invited to his house the most influential of the fanatical section of the Ulema, and had put his project into their hands, and he was, on the whole, well satisfied with the manner in which they received it, for they recognised the impossibility of attempting, in these days, to govern according to the principle they advocate, and to the exclusion of the Christians.

The main difficulty, he says, lies in drawing up a scheme for the equal administration of justice, without alarming the Mussulman conscience by abolishing the Sheriet, or the religious courts, but he believes he convinced the Ulema that what he proposes can be carried out without departure from the precepts of the Koran.

What he dreads the most is the timidity of the Grand Vizier and the resistance of some of his colleagues, but he appears confident of overcoming them, although at the price of some concessions which he may be forced to make; but he says that at the present conjuncture, when the safety of the country depends upon the Ministry remaining united, it would be a crime for himself, or any one of them, to separate from the rest by insisting too much upon his own particular views, and they are all convinced of the necessity of mutual concessions.

It is remarkable that the man who is thus working to establish an efficient control over the Administration is an inevitable future Grand Vizier, who is thus labouring to limit the authority which he will be called upon, probably at no distant date, to exercise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 71.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 665. Confidential.) *Therapia, June 24, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the accompanying extract from a private letter which I have received from Mr. Consul Holmes, explaining the origin of the reports which had appeared in some foreign newspapers of insults offered to the foreign Consuls at Mostar, and stating his apprehensions of the future development of the insurrection, unless the pacification be enforced by the European Powers, and adding his conviction that a single word spoken in sincerity by Russia to Montenegro would, at any time, have sufficed to terminate hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Private.) *Mostar, May 26, 1876.*

(Extract.)

IN many European journals an alarm has been spread that the Consuls here are subject to daily insult, particularly the Italian Consul, and that an attempt was made to murder the German Consul. Ali Pasha has received telegrams about this from Berlin and Vienna. I therefore think I had better state that the rumours have originated in two most insignificant facts.

The German Consul's horse one day shied at some loads left on the road in front of the hospital, and, while endeavouring to make the animal approach them quietly, a stupid sentinel presented his bayonet at him. He mentioned the matter in a friendly way to the Governor-General, and merely asked that orders should be given to hinder such conduct in future.

With regard to the Italian Consul, his servant had a dispute with a soldier in a butcher's shop about some meat he was buying for his master, which M. Usigli also simply communicated to Ali Pasha with a view to prevent such affairs in future. I am certain that none of the Consuls have been insulted in any way to necessitate a formal complaint.

My Russian colleague is always full of gossip as to what the population in general, and the women in particular say, and how the Turks spit whenever a Consul passes, &c. But such things are beneath serious attention.

What may happen here no one can predict after the affair of Salonica, but in justice to the population I must say that none of us have as yet had any serious cause of complaint.

My German colleague and M. Usigli are perfectly of this opinion; and regret that the trivial incidents mentioned above have been so unjustifiably misrepresented.

I hope that the Powers have determined to enforce a pacification in the Herzegovina. All depends upon Montenegro. The so-called insurgents are not worth talking about, and simply continue in arms because they are ordered to do so by Montenegro, whose Prince and people are again more rude in the hands of Russia. I believe that one word from that Power spoken in sincerity would at any time until the present have sufficed to terminate the hostilities. Such may even now be the case, but there are indications in the insurrection in Bulgaria, and the state of the Empire in other places, that the conflagration may soon assume dimensions which no power will be able to control.

No. 72.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 667.) *Therapia, June 25, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE Italian Minister yesterday made a communication to the Porte, by instructions from his Government, recommending the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from the Servian frontier.

The Grand Vizier's answer was what might have been expected. His Highness

declared that, in view of the warlike preparations openly made by the Servian Government, the Porte must take the strategical measures that it thought fit; and that although it would not provoke a rupture it would retaliate without hesitation if attacked by the Principality.

The Grand Vizier added that foreign Governments would do better service to the Servian Government by warning it of the consequences to which it would expose itself by attacking Turkey, than by advising the Porte to encourage such an attack by leaving her frontier unguarded.

The extraordinary advice given by the Italian Government was, there is little doubt, prompted from St. Petersburgh.

General Ignatiew spoke to me yesterday in deprecation of the measures taken by the Turkish Government, which, he said, were likely to bring about a collision; and it was évident from his language that he wishes the anticipated attack from Servia to have the appearance of being caused by some act of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 73.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 669.) *Therapia, June 26, 1876.*

My Lord,

I INFORMED your Lordship yesterday that, at a moment when all the Consular Agents at Belgrade were writing that an attack upon Turkey from Servia was to be expected within a few days or, perhaps, hours, the Italian Government had taken the singular step of recommending the Porte to withdraw its troops and leave the frontier open.

I expressed the belief that this step must have been prompted by Russia, and if that opinion required confirmation it has already received it from a communication made this morning to Safvet Pasha by the Russian Embassy.

A dragoman was sent by General Ignatiew to inform his Excellency that, in consequence of the menacing attitude adopted towards Servia, he had been instructed by Prince Gortchakow to remind the Porte of the provisions of the Treaty of Paris under which an armed intervention in the Principality cannot take place without a previous understanding with the guaranteeing Powers.

Safvet Pasha gave very much the same answer as had been returned to the Italian Legation the day before.

It was, he said, perfectly well known that Turkey had no intention of attacking the Principality, but had taken measures to meet an aggression which appeared imminent, and if Servia were to disarm, the Turkish troops would be withdrawn from the frontier.

There was, he said, no occasion to warn the Porte of its Treaty obligations, which it could never be reproached with disregarding; but it might, on the other hand, be useful if the Powers which were anxious for the preservation of peace, were to make Servia understand the necessity of observing a proper attitude towards the Suzerain State.

Safvet Pasha does not conceal from himself that the presence of the two armies is a source of danger, and may lead to collisions in which it may not be clear which party is in the wrong.

Every effort would, however, be taken to avoid them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 74.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 670.) *Therapia, June 26, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the translation of a telegram from Moukhtar Pasha to the Grand Vizier, dated the 22nd instant, stating that he had successfully revictualled Nichsich and had returned to Gatzko without encountering any opposition from the insurgents.

The garrison of Nichsich is now provisioned for a year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

Inclosure in No. 74.

Extract from "La Turquie" of June 24, 1876.

Télégramme de son Excellence Ahmet Moukhtar Pacha, adressé de Gatchko au Grand Vézirat, le $\frac{12}{24}$ Juin, 1876.

J'AI reçu la dépêche chiffrée de votre Altesse du $\frac{5}{17}$ du mois courant. D'après les informations que j'avais recueillies, j'ai cru que, cette fois encore, les insurgés dirigeraient toutes les forces dont ils disposent vers les défilés de Dougha. J'avais pris, par conséquent, des mesures de précaution.

Cependant, comme j'ai eu l'honneur de vous l'annoncer l'autre jour, j'ai conduits et réunis à Nichsich les deux convois de vivres composés de 2,800 charges, sans rencontrer personne en route, et aujourd'hui je suis retourné en bon état à Gatchko à la tête de mes troupes.

On dira peut-être que les insurgés n'ont opposé aucune résistance c'est par suite de l'armistice générale et de la suspension des opérations militaires; mais comme une partie d'entre eux n'a cessé de tirer sur nos Cara-Kols, et de faire des incursions dans certains villages, il faut en conclure que s'ils n'ont pas attaqué le corps expéditionnaire, c'est parce qu'ils n'avaient pas la force de le faire.

Il résulte, en effet, de mes constatations et des informations que j'ai reçues, pendant mon séjour à Nichsich, que les pertes très nombreuses que les insurgés ont subies dans les précédents combats de Dougha, les ont complétement démoralisés et réduits.

Aujourd'hui, sous les auspices du Padischah, la garnison de Nichsich a des provisions pour une année entière, en recevant des rations complètes, et l'on peut fournir aussi des vivres aux habitants nécessiteux, pendant trois mois, jusqu'à la nouvelle récolte.

No. 75.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 671.) *Therapia, June 26, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a French translation of a Proclamation addressed by the Grand Vizier to the Christian and Mahomedan population of Bulgaria, referring to the recent events in that province, and exhorting them, now that tranquillity is restored, to live together in peace and harmony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Extract from "Le Progrès" of June 23, 1876.

Proclamation du Grand-Vizir, Mehmet Rouchdi Pacha, adressée aux Populations Musulmanes et Chrétiennes de la Bulgarie.

A la Population Musulmane et Chrétienne,

VOUS n'ignorez pas que tous ceux qui veulent vivre, dans ce monde, libres et prospères, ont pour devoir, avant tout, de travailler à la sécurité et aux intérêts de leur patrie; car tant que la sécurité de la patrie n'est pas sauvegardée, l'intérêt public ne peut pas être atteint. A côté de cela, le salut ou l'intérêt individuel qui souffrent. L'une que nous appelons [illegible] toujours par le concours [illegible] de tous.

Cette [illegible] de tout [illegible], haine et malveillance parmi ceux qui sont [illegible] qui ne [illegible] dans la même patrie; l'existence de sentiments [illegible] l'ennemi et de [illegible] d'hostilité et de [illegible] la paix de chacun par le [illegible] de l'homme à [illegible] des hommes [illegible] à travail de ses propres [illegible].

En vérité, la prospérité dans les nations civilisées et des [illegible] ne peut être obtenue que par le respect des principes précités. C'est ainsi que vous, Musulmans et Bulgares, qui avez travaillé jusqu'aujourd'hui en parfaite harmonie, en faveur des intérêts

de votre patrie commune; et qui n'avez fait que vous occuper de l'agriculture et du commerce, vous êtes parvenus à vivre si bien entre vous que les autres nations pouvaient nous envier cette harmonie.

Malheureusement, quelques séditieux, cherchant à satisfaire leurs intentions malveillantes, au préjudice de notre patrie, ont troublé cette bonne harmonie, ont poussé à la haine les Bulgares et les Musulmans, et semant, entre vous, la discorde, ont travaillé à la ruine du pays et des habitants, Musulmans et Chrétiens. Vous avez été témoins de ces malheurs.

Quelques-uns des Bulgares ne pouvant discerner le bien d'avec le mal se sont associés à ce mouvement insurrectionnel; d'autres y ont été entraînés par la force. C'est ainsi que tant de sang a été répandu et que tant de pertes et de dommages sont survenus, mais grâce à Dieu et à votre concours, ce malheur a été conjuré et les rebelles ont été réduits.

Maintenant il ne vous reste plus qu'à oublier complétement tout ce qui s'est passé durant ces temps malheureux, à vous abstenir de toute haine et animosité, et à vivre tous en paix et en concorde. Car les intentions et le désir que Sa Majesté le Sultan Mourad a exprimés aussitôt son avénement au trône sont de développer partout le bien-être de tous ses fidèles sujets et d'assurer la tranquillité et la prospérité du pays.

Sa Majesté le Sultan a ordonné, en outre, la nomination et l'envoi de fonctionnaires spéciaux. Ils ont la mission de faire comprendre à tous les intentions Impériales et de vous recommander que tous vos efforts tendent à servir votre partrie, par le développement du commerce, de l'agriculture, et de la prospérité du pays.

Personne ne peut nier que ces conseils sont conformes aux commandements divins du Très-Haut, le Seigneur et Créateur de tous. Nous vous exhortons donc à prêter toute votre attention à ces conseils, d'apprécier, comme il faut, la bienveillance et la protection dont vous êtes l'objet de la part de Sa Majesté; de penser que tous, Musulmans ou Chrétiens, vous êtes enfants de la même patrie, et sujets du même Souverain; de jouir en commun des bienfaits de la patrie; de consacrer vos efforts à éloigner de vous toute pensée de méfiance; de ne prêter aucune attention aux suggestions des malveillants, et enfin de ne vous occuper que de vos affaires particulières et des prières à adresser pour la prolongation des jours du Padischah.

J'aime à croire que tous vous accueillerez ces paroles avec sincérité et que vous vous empresserez de faire preuve de fidélité et de patriotisme.

(Signé) MEHMED RUCHDI, *Grand Vézir.*

No. 76.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 674.) *Therapia, June 28, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 660 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that with the view of detaching, if possible, Montenegro from Servia, the Grand Vizier has sent a telegram to Prince Nicholas, somewhat in the sense I had suggested.

Not having seen the text I cannot speak with accuracy of its contents, but I understand that it intimates to the Prince that the operations of Moukhtar Pasha for the revictualling of Nichsich having been carried out without opposition, the Sultan was convinced that this result was due to the salutary influence exercised by him over his subjects, which His Majesty will not fail to remember at the proper time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S.—June 28.—Since writing the above I have obtained a copy of the Grand Vizier's telegram, and have the honour to inclose it herewith.

H. E.

Inclosure in No. 76.

The Grand Vizier to the Prince of Montenegro.

Le 25 Juin, 1876.

J'AI reçu le télégramme responsif que votre Altesse a bien voulu m'adresser le 13 Juin.

Nous n'avons jamais élevé des soupçons touchant le but vers lequel tendaient les efforts de votre Altesse. La continuation de la malheureuse insurrection Herzégovinienne prouve d'une manière évidente que nos forces militaires, que votre Altesse trouve supérieures aux besoins de la répression, n'étaient pas numériquement suffisantes pour cette tâche; elle se serait pourtant accomplie si l'action de nos troupes ne s'était pas trouvée entravée et arrêtée à tout moment par des obstacles et des circonstances particulières à la position du pays.

Pour ce qui est d'une concentration de troupes dont parle votre Altesse, et qui irait s'accentuant chaque jour davantage, je n'aurai pas de peine à la rassurer entièrement à ce sujet. A part nos troupes en Herzégovine, dont le nombre varie suivant les exigences stratégiques, sur aucun point de la ligne de démarcation il n'y a eu ni concentration ni modification des forces militaires. Je rappelerai même ici que nonobstant la décision prise précédemment de réunir par simple mesure de précaution un corps d'armée de 20,000 hommes à Scutari, la Sublime Porte y a renoncé à la suite des assurances données par votre Altesse.

Les dernières informations reçues du Vilayet de Scutari d'Albanie portent même que l'effectif des garnisons des fortins du côté du Monténégro n'a pas été augmenté d'un seul homme depuis huit mois. Je dirai enfin, mon Prince, que nos autorités n'ont jamais eu l'intention d'empêcher les communications de la Principauté avec le dehors, la preuve en est que ces communications continuent sans interruption et que les Monténégrins vont, en toute liberté et sans être aucunement inquiétés, à Spouze, à Podgoritza et à Scutari. Par ce qui précède votre Altesse verra que la Sublime Porte n'a adopté aucune mesure qui doive préoccuper ni inquiéter le Monténégro. Nous sommes donc persuadés, mon Prince, que malgré les insinuations tendant à ébranler sa confiance dans les sentiments et les intentions bienveillantes de la Sublime Porte, votre Altesse continuera à contribuer pour sa part à l'œuvre de pacification poursuivie par le Gouvernement Impérial en Herzégovine. Nous en trouvons une preuve dans les nouvelles transmises par notre Commandant-en-chef en Herzégovine. En effet, Moukhtar Pacha nous annonce qu'il a ravitaillé Nichsich sans rencontrer dans sa marche aucune résistance de la part des insurgés, et que son retour à Gatchko a eu lieu également sans obstacle. La Sublime Porte aime à attribuer ce résultat aux dispositions prises par votre Altesse pour retenir les réfugiés qui se trouvent au Monténégro et les empêcher d'aller se joindre aux insurgés; de telle sorte que ces derniers, se voyant isolés, n'ont pas osé inquiéter le passage des convois de vivres et des troupes qui les accompagnaient. Aussi votre Altesse peut-elle être assurée que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan apprécie dûment cette nouvelle preuve des sentiments loyaux de votre Altesse et qu'il tiendra compte en temps et lieu de la ligne de conduite suivie par elle en cette circonstance.

No. 77.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 676. Confidential.) *Therapia, June 26, 1876.*

My Lord,

SAFVET PASHA is greatly alarmed at the tone adopted by the French and German Ambassadors in reference to the sentences to be passed upon the officers under trial for their conduct at the time of the Salonica murders.

Baron Werther had held extremely overbearing language to him; and although this had not been directly stated to him, he understood that the two Ambassadors spoke of breaking off relations if capital punishment were not inflicted.

Such a result at the present moment would be deplorable, and he looked at the possibility of it with dismay, but the Porte could not cause sentences to be passed either contrary to the law or not in accordance with the evidence.

I said that neither of my colleagues had spoken to me of requiring capital sentences, but we had all come to the same conclusion as to the insufficiency of those passed at Salonica, and which are now under revision.

Safvet Pasha answered that there was a general impression that the first sentences had been too lenient, and he had no doubt that the Court of Revision would increase their severity, but the accused could not receive punishment in excess of what the law provided for the offences of which they were found guilty.

He informed me that the two Ambassadors had applied to their Governments for instructions; but it appears to me impossible that those Governments can come to any

impartial judgment on the cases upon the *ex parte* evidence forwarded to them by telegraph.

Mr. Dragoumis Stalides, who attends the trial on behalf of Her Majesty's Embassy, informs me that in his opinion the evidence is very far from establishing against the accused a criminality which would bring them within reach of a capital condemnation.

I told him that if that continued to be his opinion to the end he must, of course, not press for it, but must exert himself to bring the French and German Delegates to his views, and to treat the case in a dispassionate and judicial spirit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 78.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 679. Confidential.)
Therapia, June 28, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the inclosed extract of a private note from Sir Arnold Kemball, describing a conversation which he had had with Namik Pasha, in reference to the much talked-of Constitution.

Namik Pasha having been Governor-General while Sir A. Kemball was Consul-General at Bagdad, they are old and intimate acquaintances.

He is a strict Mussulman, and, representing the views of an important section of his countrymen, his language is of interest.

I am convinced, however, that he is mistaken in regard to Midhat Pasha's objects.

The latter, in order to secure the support of those who hold Namik Pasha's views, has been obliged to abate much of what he proposed for putting the Christians upon an equal political footing with the Mussulmans, and in doing so I believe he acts wisely and in the interests of the Christians themselves.

His intention I believe to be to secure to them as much as can be got, without provoking too much jealousy, and with the conviction that more must speedily follow.

With the confidence which I feel in his principles, my fear has always been, as I have already stated to your Lordship, rather that he might attempt too much, than that he should give too little.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

(Private.)
(Extract.)
June 28, 1876.

I YESTERDAY paid a visit to Namik Pasha. He prides himself upon having been the first, not even excepting Midhat Pasha, to propose a constitution for Turkey, and says he mentioned the subject to yourself two years ago. His programme is, of course, "la Turquie pour les Turcs." *En principe*, his Parliament is not to be closed to the Christians, but practically they must be excluded until they prove their patriotism, and give sufficient guarantees of loyalty and fidelity to the State. Herein he pleads the analogy of British India, Algeria, and the Dutch Settlements in respect of complete national representation, and refers to the very recent admission of Jews into the British Parliament as excusing, if not justifying, Turkish resentiments. He is averse, under existing circumstances, to the employment of Christians in the army, though the time, he thinks, may come when, under proper regulations, Christians could be so employed with safety. Just now he should prefer the threatened exhaustion of the Mussulman blood of the country as involving less danger.

The Parliament and the army must, for the present, be purely Turkish. If equal civil rights and privileges were conceded to the Christians, the concession would be illusory and impracticable. He doubts if the intention be seriously entertained by any party; certainly not by Midhat, whose views he declares to be identical with his own. The partizans of absolutism are the clericals and the Grand Vizier, but Namik does not despair of their adopting his Parliamentary programme, the more especially that those

who represent the army and who are in a position to act and speak in its name are all of his way of thinking.

He nevertheless respects and esteems the Grand Vizier, whom he believes to be acting conscientiously, though under a mistaken sense of duty, and would prefer, as he still hopes, to see the desired reform effected through him, or by him, rather than in spite of him. (This may imply jealousy of Midhat.) He deplores the delay, but thinks it unavoidable to prevent a collision; for nothing, in his opinion, ought to be promised which could not be performed; and performance ought to be guaranteed by the general consent of the nation.

Namik has not yet submitted his programme in writing, but has proposed it for submission to the Council. I have mentioned his views as expressed to me in such detail, because the impression they left on my mind was that though not in office, nor desiring office, he was taking a very active part in the discussion of the proposed reforms, and even wished to be considered the leader of the party which was dominant. His opponents being not ultra-liberals but ultra-conservatives, Namik, I fancy, could have no object in deceiving me as to Midhat's views.

Talking of Servia, Namik thought if war ensued the Austrian Government would not be able to prevent irruptions from Croatia and Dalmatia into the Turkish provinces.

No. 79.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 680.)
Therapia, June 28, 1876.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship has learnt from Mr. Wyndham's despatches that of late the language of the Cabinet of Athens as regards the observance of neutrality has been less satisfactory than it was a short time ago.

The Greek Minister here has been instructed to reassure the Porte, and has given the most explicit declarations that his Government is determined not to be drawn into the complications, and the last communications from the Turkish Envoy at Athens have also been of a nature to allay the uneasiness that was felt.

Too much confidence should not, however, be placed in these assurances, and if a declaration of war by Servia were to be followed by an insurrectionary movement in Crete, the course that would be taken by Greece must be very doubtful, and will even be so if no such insurrection should occur.

Mr. Wyndham describes the feeling against Russia as being strong in Greece, and among the Greeks in Turkey it continues to be as intense as ever; but M. Commoundouros' sentiments upon that point are not supposed to be in harmony with those of the majority of his countrymen.

It seems, however, hardly probable that the Greek Government could wish to provoke actual hostilities with Turkey, the first effect of which would be to annihilate their extensive commerce and to place their islands and seaports at the mercy of the overwhelming Ottoman naval force.

It appears to me more probable, on the whole, that encouragement would be given to bands of volunteers and sympathizers in Thessaly and Epirus which the Greek Government will pretend an inability to stop, and that the tactics adopted during the Cretan insurrection would be repeated.

The experiment would be a dangerous one; for whatever may be the difficulties which this country is called upon to face, it will not, I believe, again show the same patience as was exhibited nine years ago.

Mr. Consul Sandwith's despatches have made your Lordship acquainted with the critical position of affairs in Crete.

He has shown that there are real grievances which require redress; but the demand that the organic "Règlement" should be so far modified as virtually to throw the whole power into the hands of the Christian majority, is one that it will be impossible for the Porte to consent to.

An inquiry is to be made into the demands of the Cretan Assembly, and I am recommending the Porte to comply liberally and largely with all those which can safely be conceded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 80.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 686.) *Therapia, June 29, 1876.*

My Lord,

IT is the conviction of some of those who see most of General Ignatiew that, finding his position here to have become untenable, he is desirous of bringing about a rupture between the two countries.

He is said keenly to feel the humiliation that would attend his own retirement if relations between Russia and Turkey are maintained, but considers that his dignity would be saved if it took place upon a rupture.

Preparations are said to have been made for a hurried departure at any moment.

It is not long since I reported to your Lordship that the General, speaking of the excitement manifested by the Turks against Russia, declared that, if he wished it, he would undertake at any time to find a *casus belli* against Turkey within a couple of hours.

Of course too much importance is not to be attached to these words, but when the extent is seen to which the Ambassador is smarting under feelings of wounded vanity and exasperation, they cannot be altogether forgotten.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 81.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 689.) *Therapia, June 29, 1876.*

My Lord,

I COMMUNICATED to Safvet Pasha the substance of your Lordship's No. 381 of the 13th instant.

His Excellency expressed himself as deeply grateful for the friendly attitude of Her Majesty's Government, which was, he said, fully appreciated by his colleagues and by the whole nation.

He recognized the justice of your Lordship's remarks upon the past shortcomings of the Porte, and concurred in the expressions of the necessity for a thorough and radical reform in the administration.

The Sultan's Government was fully impressed with the urgency of this being done without delay, and were proceeding with their endeavours to effect these reforms as much as was possible under the pressure of circumstances which rendered their task one of immense difficulty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 82.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 73. Political.) *Belgrade, July 1, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter addressed by the Prince of Servia to his Highness the Grand Vizier, stating various grievances by way of an introduction to a state of war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Prince Milan to the Grand Vizier.

Altesse, *Belgrade, le 19 Juin, 1876.*

DANS mon télégramme du 27 Mai, j'avais fait part à votre Altesse de la résolution que j'avais prise d'envoyer à Constantinople un délégué spécial chargé d'échanger avec la Sublime Porte des explications franches et loyales, destinées à établir une entente durable entre le Gouvernement Impérial et la Serbie.

Votre Altesse n'a pas cru devoir m'encourager dans ce projet par son télégramme responsif en date du 31 Mai, et d'autre part, tandis que je reçois de la Sublime Porte des assurances conciliantes, de grands mouvements de troupes Impériales ont lieu dans la direction des frontières de la Serbie. Le projet d'Hussein Avni Pacha, qui ne visait à rien moins qu'à livrer la Serbie en pillage à des hordes sauvages de Bachi-Bozouks, de Tcherkesses, d'Albanais et même de Kurdes, qui devaient être appelés du fond de l'Asie, reçoit son commencement d'exécution. Ces bandes sanguinaires se rassemblent le long de nos frontières, prêtes à renouveler sur le territoire de la Principauté les scènes horribles dont la Bulgarie vient d'être le théatre. A l'approche de ce danger j'ai dû renoncer au projet d'envoyer à Constantinople un commissaire spécial et, pour ne pas perdre de temps, m'adresser directement à votre Altesse afin d'arriver à une entente que j'appelle de tous mes vœux.

C'est en vue de cette entente que je dois d'abord, Altesse, appeler votre attention sur l'origine de cette conflagration que nous voyons prendre tous les jours de plus grandes proportions.

La population Chrétienne de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine, poussée à bout par les violences des Beys indigènes et les abus des organes administratifs, proteste périodiquement les armes à la main contre un état de choses reconnu généralement comme insupportable.

Chacun de ces mouvements, en portant la surexcitation dans les esprits, fournit un nouvel aliment au fanatisme des populations, impose de nouveaux devoirs à la Sublime Porte en l'obligeant à des mesures de répression et crée un nouveau péril pour la paix Européenne.

Cette situation ne saurait convenir à personne, mais elle est préjudiciable surtout à la Principauté de Serbie à cause du voisinage de ce pays et des intérêts de tout genre qui se trouvent compromis.

Même aux époques de tranquillité parfaite le Gouvernement Serbe avait continuellement motif de se plaindre à la Sublime Porte des entraves que les autorités de Bosnie mettent aux relations de toute nature que les Serbes entretiennent avec la population de ces Provinces. Ceux de nos négociants, artisans ou agriculteurs qui s'y rendaient pour leurs affaires particulières, quoique munis de passeports réguliers, y étaient jetés en prison, maltraités, dépouillés, souvent même tués et tout cela sous des prétextes dont les autorités de Bosnie ne sont jamais parvenues à prouver la consistance.

Ces procédés dirigés contre la liberté, la fortune, et la vie de nos ressortissants voyageant en Bosnie et en Herzégovine ont fini par réduire à des proportions insignifiantes le commerce de la Serbie autrefois assez actif dans ces contrées.

Mais ce n'est pas seulement sous ce rapport que la Serbie a à souffrir dès qu'un mouvement insurrectionnel vient à se manifester dans les Provinces de l'Empire qui l'avoisinent. Le contre-coup moral qu'en ressent la population de la Principauté est toujours des plus fâcheux. Alors tous les intérêts se trouvent atteints à la fois, toutes les passions se déchaînent et mon Gouvernement se trouve réduit à une situation des plus critiques. Une multitude de réfugiés, dénués de tout, afflue dans la Principauté tombant à la charge des populations et de l'Etat; les agressions se multiplient à nos frontières; nos gardes sont tués; des bandes de pillards accompagnées souvent de troupes régulières, pénètrent jusque dans nos villages, dévalisent les églises, assaillent à l'improviste les maisons isolées et en mènent le bétail, laissant après eux l'incendie et la mort. Ces incursions contraignent nos populations à prendre les armes pour la défense de leur vie et de leurs biens. Les travaux de la campagne sont abandonnés, le commerce cesse et le crédit disparaît.

De tous temps la Principauté a eu à lutter contre ces maux et contre d'autres encore; mais c'est surtout dans les dix derniers mois qui viennent de s'écouler, c'est-à-dire depuis le commencement de l'insurrection actuelle, que la Serbie a été mise à une dure épreuve.

La Sublime Porte a porté nos maux à leur comble en plaçant à nos frontières des corps d'observation qu'elle a continué à maintenir bien que nos frontières soient entièrement dégarnies de troupes déjà depuis l'automne dernier. Cette attitude menaçante, que

rien ne justifie, vu le dévouement inébranlable que le Gouvernement et le peuple Serbes lui ont témoigné de tout temps et même dans les circonstances les plus critiques pour l'Empire, a d'une part blessé profondément le sentiment et de l'autre contraint la Serbie à des sacrifices énormes imposés par la nécessité de pourvoir à la défense du pays.

Sans être en guerre nous en subissons toutes les conséquences.

J'ai toujours professé le plus haut respect pour les décisions de la Sublime Porte et des Grandes Puissances. Aussi en les voyant s'occuper vivement de l'amélioration du sort des Chrétiens, dont on reconnaît hautement la triste condition, quelques grandes que fussent les difficultés contre lesquelles je devais avoir à lutter à l'intérieur, je résolus d'attendre le résultat de leurs efforts, persuadé qu'avec la fin des souffrances des populations insurgées tarirait la source de maux qui accablent la Principauté.

L'attente générale a été malheureusement déçue. Les Chrétiens ne trouvant pas de garanties suffisantes pour être rassurés sur leur sort futur, persistent dans la lutte, et de leur côté les Musulmans répondent aux intentions humaines de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan par une recrudescence inouïe de violences et de cruautés. L'armée Impériale elle-même continue à manifester des velléités belliqueuses à nos frontières.

Il est évident que cet état de choses ne saurait se prolonger davantage sans amener la ruine de la Principauté au double point de vue moral et matériel.

La gravité de cette situation m'a obligé d'examiner les moyens par lesquels je pourrais seconder la Porte dans ses efforts pour mettre un terme à cet état de choses. C'est pas, Altesse, que je puisse croire un seul instant les forces dont dispose le Gouvernement Impérial insuffisantes pour atteindre le but qu'il se propose, mais peut-on s'abandonner à l'espoir que, momentanément dompté, l'insurrection ne renaîtra pas dans un avenir plus ou moins rapproché? Peut-on espérer que la répression par les armes fera disparaître les causes qui ramènent périodiquement cette situation?

Des essais réitérés de réformes ne peuvent pénétrer dans la population. Elles se heurtent à l'écueil d'une bureaucratie qui, étrangère à la langue et aux mœurs du pays, finit toujours par aliéner à la Sublime Porte les sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. Par là l'insurrection se constitue et reste à l'état de permanence dans les Provinces de Bosnie et d'Herzégovine. C'est ainsi que la Sublime Porte, au lieu de voir se consolider sa puissance par l'introduction de bonnes réformes, est obligée de s'épuiser incessamment dans des mesures répressives et que la Serbie se trouve fatalement condamnée à subir cette situation ruineuse qui va en empirant depuis dix mois.

Telles sont, Altesse, les considérations qui m'ont porté à rechercher la voie par laquelle il me serait donné de seconder la Sublime Porte dans ses efforts pour conjurer à ses crises sans cesse renaissantes l'Empire dont la Principauté fait partie intégrante. Or il semble qu'il y aurait un moyen propre à conduire à ce but.

Il consiste à mettre les forces de la Serbie au service des intérêts communs de l'Empire et de la Principauté.

L'armée Serbe, composée d'éléments de même nationalité que les populations insurgées serait certainement reçue à bras ouverts par la grande majorité des habitants. Ceux-ci ne pourraient que considérer cette combinaison comme la création d'un état de choses basé sur l'ordre et la justice et qui offrirait des garanties sérieuses que toutes les concessions seront désormais le point d'une parfaite égalité. Je me fais un titre de gloire, Altesse, de contribuer à son établissement sans m'écarter du principe de conservation et d'intégrité de l'Empire.

Les avantages que l'Empire retirerait de cette combinaison sous les rapports financier, politique et militaire sont évidents.

Le peuple Serbe, l'apôtre le plus zélé de l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman, n'est pas sans comprendre la nécessité de mettre en accord avec les intérêts généraux de l'Empire et les exigences de la politique Européenne. En allant au-devant des vœux des Serbes la Sublime Porte les mettrait en état de propager dans l'Orient Chrétien le principe de conservation, d'intégrité et d'indépendance de l'Orient à l'ombre du trône de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et la Serbie deviendrait cette Pauillerie donnée par la Providence à la Sublime Porte pour l'aider à la régénération de l'Orient par l'Orient lui-même.

Convaincu que la voie proposée est la plus sûre pour prévenir le retour des calamités qui affligent en ce moment les provinces insurgées et par contre-coup la Principauté, j'ai dû découvrir à votre Altesse le fond de ma pensée. Les considérations que j'ai eu l'honneur de lui exposer m'en ont fait un devoir impérieux, et d'autre part je ne puis renoncer à la conviction qu'il entre dans les intentions généreuses de Sa Majesté le Sultan d'arrêter l'effusion du sang de ses sujets et la dévastation de contrées qu'un de ses vœux les plus chers est de rendre à la prospérité.

Je déclare donc à votre Altesse que, dans le but de co-opérer, par l'emploi des forces

militaires de la Principauté, à l'établissement d'un état de choses favorable aux intérêts communs de l'Empire et de la Principauté, je me suis résolu à donner suite à ces vues d'ordre. En conséquence je prie votre Altesse de me faciliter la mission que j'entreprends en donnant aux autorités Impériales l'ordre de renvoyer dans leurs foyers les bandes de pillards et en enjoignant aux troupes Impériales de ne pas mettre obstacle à mes efforts, pour me permettre de protéger hautement, comme je le désire, le principe du maintien de l'intégrité de l'Empire.

Agréez, &c.

No. 83.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 257.)

My Lord, *Rome, July 3, 1876.*

M. MELEGARI, Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed me this morning that the Italian Government had very willingly acceded to the invitation of the Duc Decazes to send a solemn warning to Belgrade although they despaired of their message having any success; but that the knowledge that the suggestion had been made by England prevented the Italian Government from hesitating as to their acquiescence in the measure. The message had been delivered to the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who replied that he had no further answer to make than he had already made to the other pacific counsels which he had received from Italy, and that, as it was, the die was cast.

M. Melegari understood that in the case of the other Powers, the Servian Minister had replied by sending them Prince Milan's Proclamation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 84.

Consul Sir C. Scholefield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 6. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Corfu, July 4, 1876.*

I HAVE already had the honour to report in general terms the substance of such information as I was enabled to collect in the course of last week, relating to political matters, the most interesting portion of which turns on the contents of certain documents of which the Turkish Consul General, Coromelos Bey, with consummate address, succeeded in obtaining possession.

As I have known the Bey intimately for more than twenty-five years, and as all our intercourse as colleagues during the last four years has been most cordial and unreserved, he made no difficulty about allowing me to peruse the documents in question. But as copies are already gone to Constantinople, where they will be forthwith submitted to Sir Henry Elliot, who will doubtless forward transcripts of them *in extenso* to your Lordship, I shall only here give an abstract of their contents:—

1. Circular letter bearing the signature and seal of "Wessilitsky," Russian Agent in Montenegro, and recommending the bearer Barbieux, an ex-Captain in the French Army, to the confidence and good offices of all and sundry the friends of the Herzegovinians and Bosnians.

2. An account of all monies expended for the purchase of a battery of mountain guns for the Prince of Montenegro and for travelling expenses. On the debtor side of the account a sum of 6,000 l. is entered paid in cash to Barbieux by the Treasurer of the "Panhellenic (Secret) Association" of Corfu.

3. Copy of a Report to Wessilitsky, in the handwriting of Barbieux, giving an account of the difficulties and dangers "by flood and fields" he had encountered before he was enabled to deposit his precious charge at the Custom-house, where they are now lying.

4. Receipt granted by the local Agent of the Prince on taking over the guns, and this, for reasons which will at once appear evident, I give in full.

"Reçu de MM. Baron Von Wedell, Barbieux, et Von Hartig, par ordre et pour le compte de Son Altesse le Prince de Monténégro, soixante-dix-sept caisses contenant une batterie complète de montagne avec leurs accessoires, et 1,300 obus.

(Signé) "NICOLA ASPIOTTE.

"*Corfu, le 27 Juin*, 1876."

Here, the names of Barbieux' two confederates are given—Von Wedel, a Prussian, and V. Hutig (or "V. Alten") a Hanoverian.

The trio remained at Corfu for a month, making occasional excursion by the Weekly Austrian Lloyd's Coasting Steamer up the Adriatic. They left for good, in company, by the same conveyance, on Tuesday, the 27th ultimo, but not before discovering that their credentials were missing.

I have stated elsewhere that my friend Conemenos Bey had been recalled—the victim of the late Vizier Mahmoud, although a more honourable man does not exist, nor a more able, zealous, and loyal public servant. Fortunately, he is possessed of a large property in Epirus, and, therefore, independent of employment.

He left by the direct steamer for Constantinople of the 2nd instant, and ought to reach his destination in the course of to-morrow, or next day at latest.

In order to facilitate the transfer of the above-mentioned documents to Her Majesty's Embassy, I gave him a few lines of introduction to Mr. Jocelyn, the only member of the Embassy whom I have the honour to know personally.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 85.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 431.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 4, 1876.*

BEFORE receiving your Lordship's despatch No. 309 of the 24th ultimo, I observed, in a conversation with Baron Hofmann, that as there appeared to be little doubt that the Prince of Montenegro was upon the point of declaring war against Turkey, the arms which had lately been forwarded to him through Cattaro, by the permission of the Austrian Government, had, not improbably, contributed in some degree to His Highness having taken this resolution; and his Excellency answered that Austria-Hungary would not have been acting with strict neutrality, if she had prevented arms and munitions of war reaching Montenegro through Cattaro, while Turkish troops were allowed to pass through an Austrian *more clausum* to the port of Klek.

In consequence of this statement, I thought it expedient to avail myself of an interview, which I had yesterday with Count Andrassy, to read to his Excellency *in extenso* your Lordship's despatch, omitting, however, Mr. Monson's name, and correcting what I believe to be an error on his part, as to the rifles purchased in Austria having been received from the War Department.

His Excellency made no observation till I had finished, when he said the advice which the despatch conveyed was good, but he would like me to leave it with him, in order that he might answer it in detail.

This, I said, I could not do, as your Lordship had only wished me to speak to him on the subject to which it referred, and that I had read it to him, without being authorized to do so, as the most satisfactory manner of bringing clearly before him the importance which Her Majesty's Government attach to some check being put to the support which the insurrection had hitherto received from the Austrian territory.

His Excellency then produced a map to demonstrate to me that it would be impossible without great military means, which would seriously increase the expenses of the army, to watch effectually a mountainous frontier, of which the boundaries are very imperfectly known or defined, but, he said, collisions which had recently taken place between the Imperial troops and armed insurgents violating Austrian territory proved that there was every disposition to prevent its being used as a refuge by such persons when unable to keep the field.

As to Austrian subjects being alleged to have taken part against the Turks in the battles at the Duga Pass, he said it was by no means certain that the combatants who had come from Austrian territory on those occasions were subjects of the Emperor; and as Prince Nicholas had just sent orders to a number of Montenegrins employed in Cravoscia, and in the country round Cattaro, to join the army, it may be presumed that these were the persons coming from those districts who had fought at Duga.

He said the strictest orders had been given to the authorities to prevent any action on the part of Panslavist Committees; that every facility had been given to Vassa Effendi, and to Heyder Effendi, to communicate with the refugees, in order to induce them to return to their homes, and that it had even been contemplated to send them across the frontier under the charge of gendarmes; but General Rodich, in a telegram which he read to me, had just

expressed a strong opinion against the propriety of forcing them to return to the Herzegovina, when the country is about to become a battle-field between the Turks and the Montenegrins.

He said that the greater part of the refugees in Bosnia had been sent to Agram, and that none are allowed to remain within three miles of the frontier.

When his Excellency had concluded these observations, I asked whether Montenegro, now that Prince Nicholas has declared war against Turkey, will be allowed to receive supplies through Cattaro; and he answered, that he could not at present make a positive statement on the subject, as if he prevented supplies reaching Montenegro through Cattaro, he would be obliged also to close the port of Klek, which he believed would be a worse arrangement for the Porte than leaving both routes open.

I expressed some surprise at this view of the case, observing that I had always understood he intended to prevent any supplies arriving through Austrian territory at Cettigné if Montenegro openly supported the insurrection.

His Excellency, however, maintained that he had never said anything which could justify my entertaining such an opinion. He said his present intention is to remain strictly neutral, like the other Powers, in the contest that is opening between the Porte and the Principalities, and, before deciding upon the course which he ought to adopt in conformity with that neutrality, he would probably communicate with them, and he hoped that he would be able to concur in the opinion which Her Majesty's Government might entertain upon the subject.

As the Austrian Government agree with that of Russia in considering Montenegro as an entirely independent State, and as, I believe, Her Majesty's Government still look upon it as forming a part of the Turkish Empire, I had some hesitation in discussing this question with his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 86.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 435. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 4, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 308 of the 23rd ultimo, I have mentioned to Count Andrassy that your Lordship has acquainted me with the language which Count Beust had lately held to you respecting the prospect of Servia and Montenegro declaring war against the Porte; and as Count Beust had stated, in speaking upon the subject, that he expected to learn from his Excellency, what course appeared to him to be practicable under the circumstances, when he had time to consider a proposition which had been communicated to him by the Russian Ambassador, I asked to what proposition Count Beust had alluded.

Count Andrassy answered that he had been at first led to believe from Count Beust's correspondence, that your Lordship agreed with the Russian Government in considering that the administrative autonomy of the insurgent provinces would be the most practical and best manner of terminating the differences between them and the Porte, though it now appeared to him that Count Beust was under some misapprehension on the subject. What he had been considering, therefore, when he wrote to Count Beust, was whether there might not be some way of preventing the realization of Prince Gortchakow's views, without directly opposing them; but he had since decided that the best course was to state frankly and honestly to the Russian Chancellor, that the interests of Austria-Hungary would prevent him from assenting to such a solution of the question. He said he had not yet heard how Prince Gortchakow had received this communication, but he was prepared for his being dissatisfied with it.

As he asked me what I believed to be your Lordship's views on the subject, I said that as far as I knew, your Lordship had only spoken of autonomy as a possible eventuality, which might be the consequence of the Turks being unable to suppress the insurrection, and I said that after your Lordship had communicated to me the various objections, which his Excellency had submitted to you through Count Beust, against the adoption of such an arrangement, you had observed, that if they were well founded the proposed remedy seemed to be worse than the disease.

His Excellency then went on to say that he was entirely of your Lordship's opinion, that diplomatic action would for the present be inopportune, and that the Powers should

not attempt to come to any agreement as to the arrangements which might be the most expedient in the future until it is seen how far the Porte may be able to repel the aggression of Servia and Montenegro, and to suppress the insurrection by arms. Its military resources might possibly not be sufficient for that purpose, and from what he learnt from Count Zichy he feared that the Government had not sufficient funds at its disposal to purchase provisions and other necessaries for the army, or to pay the troops. I observed that they could not, however, be worse off in that respect than their opponents, but he said the cases were different, as the Servians could live by plunder, while the Turkish troops could not rob in their own country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 87.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 436.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 4, 1876.*

I HAD some conversation with Count Andrassy yesterday respecting the anxiety felt by the Roumanian Government at the alleged intention of the Porte to send gunboats up the Danube to act against Servia, and I mentioned to him the nature of the advice which Sir Henry Elliot had given at Constantinople, by your Lordship's instructions, on the subject.

His Excellency said he had instructed Count Zichy to hold similar language to the Turkish Government, because the use of gunboats on the Danube might give rise to many disagreeable questions, as they could not be employed without interrupting trade upon the river, and conflicts between them and Servian troops might lead to complaints for injuries sustained by the inhabitants of Roumania, and in the event of operations being undertaken against Belgrade Semlin might be exposed to danger from the guns of that fortress. He hoped, therefore, that the gunboats would not ascend the river higher than Widdin, and that the Porte would itself restrict the operations of its flotilla, so as to give no legitimate cause of umbrage to Roumania, or to interfere with the free navigation of the river. He said, however, it would not be desirable that the question should become a matter of discussion between the Powers, or that any international arrangements should be adopted respecting it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 88.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 437.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 4, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose précis of an article by Mr. Edwardes, which has appeared in the "Neue Freie Presse" of to-day, giving some idea of the strength of Turkish, Servian, and Montenegrin forces, and of their probable operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Précis of an Article in the "Neue Freie Presse" of July 4, 1876.

ACCORDING to accounts from the East the Turkish forces on the frontier of Servia, consisting of three corps, near Novi-Bazar, Nisch, and Widdin, number 48,517 men, on the Montenegrin frontier near Spuzari and Podgoritza, 11,520 men; and in the Herzegovina and Bosnia, 32,000 men.

The main division of the Servian army, under General Tchernieff, before Nisch, consists of three divisions of militia (III, V, VI), and of the small standing army, in all 43 battalions of infantry, 20 squadrons of cavalry, equal 37,000 men and 120 guns.

Division IV of the militia, under General Besjanin, is stationed on the eastern frontier; Division I, under General Marco Alimpits, on the Drina; and Division II, under General Zach, on the south-western frontier. Each of these Divisions consists of 13 battalions, 5 squadrons, and 24 to 28 guns.

Division IV will act on the defensive alone, protecting the Servian eastern frontier from invasion; and the fortress of Nisch, around which the Turkish Army, under Abdul Kerim Pasha is entrenched, will suffice to prevent any offensive action by the main army under Tchernaieff. The seat of offensive action against the Turks is evidently Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Servian Divisions I and II, under Marco Alimpits and Zach, numbering each 11,150 men, having joined the Herzegovinian insurgents and the Montenegrins, under Nikita, will endeavour to advance into Turkish territory.

Moukhtar Pasha's army of 32,000 men having proved hitherto insufficient to crush the insurrection, it consequently will be still more powerless against the insurgents reinforced as they will be by Servian and Montenegrin troops, will endeavour to open communication with the port of Klek, and being strengthened there by Turkish ships of war, will secure that port and other smaller fortified places: Serajevo, Mostar, Trebinje, Nichsich, &c.

On the result of the operations of the main body under Abdul Kerim Pasha and of the troops in North Albania under Ali Pasha, who will direct their operations to separate Servia and Montenegro, will depend the fate of the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The troops under Tchernieff being too few to invest the entrenched Turkish camp at Nisch will remain inactive until attacked by Abdul Kerim.

Three Turkish monitors built in 1865 at Marseilles, drawing five feet of water, will be able to mount the rapids in the present state of water in the river, thus affording the Turks much chance of success in that direction.

As Nikita takes with him 15,000 men into the Herzegovina, the Turkish forces, 12,000 men, under Ali Pasha, destined for the invasion of Montenegro, strengthened, as they will be, from Scutari by two gunboats, will probably meet with few difficulties.

No. 89.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, July 7, 1876, 11 A.M.*

THE Servians are marching in force down the valley of Ibar, to seize Mitrovitza Railroad, and cut off Mehemet Ali Pasha.

No. 90.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 7, 1876, 10·40 P.M.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that Mehemet Ali Pasha has obtained an important victory over the Servians on their own territory, north of Novi Bazar: 3,000 killed and wounded; baggage and position in the hands of the Turks.

No. 91.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Scutari, June 27, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed this day by me to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the commencement of Moukhtar Pasha's operations for carrying through the complete re-victualling of all the blockhouses in the Duga Pass.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, June 27, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Moukhtar Pasha left Gatzko yesterday, with a large force, for the purpose of carrying through the operation of re-victualling all the blockhouses in the Dugo Pass for twelve months.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 92.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 10. Political.)

Rustchuk, July 1, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, inclosed copies of two further Reports, addressed by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, as noted in the margin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)

Rustchuk, June 21, 1876.

Sir,

THE Governor-General, during a conversation I had with him on Sunday last, expressed himself to me as follows: —

From the result of the elections in Roumania he fears that, the "Rouges" being in a majority, the Minister Bratiano will be at the head of the Chamber and Ministry, and that consequently M. Cogalniceano, the present Minister for Foreign Affairs, and two others, will leave it.

His Excellency continued that as Bratiano has evinced sentiments antagonistic to the good relations between this vilayet and Roumania, and as the present very satisfactory relations are chiefly owing to M. Cogalniceano and the other two Ministers who are with him, should what he fears take place he will lose the confidence he at present feels in the Roumanian Government, and be compelled to return to his former attitude of strict vigilance, which on several occasions gave unwarranted offence on the other side.

I have written to Mr. St. John, of Bucharest, and hasten to inform your Excellency thereof.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Rustchuk, June 30, 1876.

Sir,

THE attention of all here is at this moment almost entirely turned to Servia, in respect to which all sorts of rumours are being brought here from the other side of the Danube.

I this morning saw the Governor-General, who informed me that he had just received telegrams from the Commanders of three divisions encamped near this and the southern side of the Servian Frontier.

Osman Pasha has moved the whole force (minus two battalions) under his command from Widdin (about twenty-eight battalions) to Belgradtchick, opposite Saichar in Servia.

Ahmed Eyoub Pasha, who commands nearly fifty batallions at Nisch, telegraphed to the Pasha, and also Mehemet Ali Pasha, who was at Novi Bazar with about the same force.

Ahmed Eyoub Pasha informed the Governor-General that Prince Milan of Servia was at Alexinatz, and that there were, it was said, along the frontier, upward of 100,000 men collected of all sorts, regulars, militiamen, and irregular troops, and that consequently the whole of the Turkish divisions were ready to march at a very short notice.

Eight battalions have, within the past week, moved from this to Widdin, and six more are daily expected. Several steamboats from Constantinople have passed this with ammunition to be landed at Widdin, in fact great activity is being displayed here at this moment in moving ammunition and forage to the frontier.

The relations between the Governor-General and the Roumanian Government continue to be very satisfactory.

On Wednesday last the Secretary of the Minister for Foreign Affairs arrived here from Bucharest, and brought a letter from M. Cogalniceano, expressing his regret that he could not come himself on account of serious indisposition, and he sent his Secretary to arrange any matters that may be necessary with the Pasha.

The Governor-General was highly pleased, and I believe that as long as M. Cogalniceano is in the Government there will be no fear of the present satisfactory relations being disturbed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

No. 93.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 151. Very Confidential.)

Athens, June 28, 1876.

My Lord,

I UNDERSTAND that a message was conveyed last Monday from the German Government to the Hellenic Government to the effect that the Great Powers wished for peace, and that the necessity of maintaining a peaceful attitude had been impressed upon Servia.

I am told that the Hellenic Government are much disappointed at the peaceful turn events have taken, as they were in hopes that out of continued disturbances in Turkey something might result to the benefit of Greece.

With reference to my No. 147, Confidential, of the 24th instant, I am now informed that the number of rifles the Greek Government has purchased, or is about to purchase, at Berlin, amounts to 60,000, at 47 drachmas per rifle, which will leave a certain sum out of the 3,000,000 drachmas advanced by the National Bank, to pay for the packing and freight of these arms. I now understand that no ammunition is to be supplied by the German Government.

I venture to ask your Lordship whether I should make any remark to the Hellenic Government upon the contraction of loans for the purchase of arms, which purchase at the present moment, and considering the financial condition of the country, renders them, I think, open to suspicion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 94.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 441.)

Vienna, July 5, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 427 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a letter from Belgrade, giving a curious report, if it be trustworthy, of the relations of Prince Milan with his Ministers, and of the intrigues which preceded the Servian declaration of war against Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Extract from a Letter received from Belgrade, dated July 1, 1876.

TOUT le monde ne parle aujourd'hui que de la publication de l'état de siége, du manifeste du Prince Milan, qui doit avoir lieu demain et de l'ouverture immédiate des hostilités. Nous voilà donc arrivés enfin à l'endroit où M. Ristits et ses collègues Ouladinistes sont forcés de montrer clairement leur politique tortueuse et inextricable. Je sais que MM. Ristits et Gruics, plus que tout autre Serbe, redoutent les forces militaires de la Turquie et préféreraient de beaucoup une transaction pacifique à une guerre dont les chances sont au moins très douteuses pour la Serbie. Ils voudraient obtenir quelques concessions territoriales qui serviraient de prestige à leur parti Ouladiniste pour leurs fins à venir. Sans ces concessions MM. Ristits et Gruics se croient avec raison perdus aux yeux de leurs partisans, et croient en même temps que leur influence dans le pays cesserait d'exister. Ils ont donc préparé la guerre pour faire peur à la Porte et pour l'amener ainsi à faire des concessions par voie diplomatique; ils comptaient aussi sur le concours des Puissances Européennes qui, voulant éviter à tout prise une conflagration en Orient, et désirant le maintien de la paix, exerceraient une pression sur la Porte Ottomane pour que celle-ci fasse des concessions à la Serbie et au Monténégro. Nous verrons dans quelques jours si le calcul de M. Ristits était juste ou non.

Si la Porte ne cède pas, si les Grandes Puissances n'interviennent pas en faveur de la Serbie, M. Ristits sera forcé de faire immédiatement la guerre ou de désarmer, car l'état actuel des choses est insoutenable et ne peut se prolonger longtemps. Si les Serbes n'entrent pas en action d'ici en trois ou quatre jours, comme toutes les apparences l'indiquent, alors il sera évident qui a voulu tromper par sa politique et la Porte, et les Grandes Puissances, et les Serbes eux-mêmes. Connaissant M. Ristits à fond et de longue date, je ne serais point étonné de cette tournure. Que le Gouvernement Serbe fasse la guerre ou non, le pays est ruiné pour une serie d'années. Ce qui m'a suggeré quelque doute sur la sincérité de M. Ristits de faire la guerre juste au moment où l'on doit s'attendre à l'ouverture des hostilités, ce sont les intrigues du parti de Karageorgeovics, intrigues auxquelles sont mêlés MM. Ristits et Gruics et leurs amis. Je ne veux pas dire par là, que M. Ristits travaille réellement pour Karageorgeovics. Il travaille en apparence pour Karageorgeovics, dont il se servira pour faire ses propres affaires. Il est de notoriété publique, que le Prince Milan et Ristits se détestent réciproquement et à perdre l'autre.

M. Ristits a poussé sans cesse à la guerre, sachant que le Prince Milan sera perdu, s'il ne fait pas la guerre, ou s'il fait une guerre malheureuse. Voilà pourquoi aussi le Prince Milan persistait, depuis que Ristits est au pouvoir, à dire et à montrer qu'il est pour la guerre, qu'il ne voulait point entreprendre il y a quatre mois. Le Prince se sert de la même arme contre Ristits, car si M. Ristits est forcé, au dernier moment, de dire ouvertement, qu'il ne peut faire la guerre, il est perdu, et l'est encore si la guerre entreprise tourne mal pour la Serbie, car c'est Ristits qui la voulu depuis deux ans. Cette lutte entre le Prince et son Ministre subsiste, comme leurs méfiances réciproques, et il se pourrait que le Prince appelle la Skouptchina à Alexinatz, et lui demande encore si elle veut la guerre ou la paix. Par cette demarche du Prince dont on parle effectivement, M. Ristits serait anéanti à jamais.

Je demande bien pardon à votre Excellence de vous adresser aujourd'hui un rapport renfermant des considérations qui diffèrent énormément de ceux que les Agents Politiques envoient en ce moment à leurs Cabinets, considérations qui peut-être seront erronnées, mais qui malgré tout peuvent être bien fondées, car nous sommes ici dans un pays exceptionnellement gouverné par des hommes peu scrupuleux, détestant la vérité comme une maladie contagieuse, et dont on peut s'attendre à tout.

Tout en ne niant point l'imminence de la guerre, j'ai cru de mon devoir de vous communiquez ces considérations pour ne pas être pris à l'improviste par les événements.

Le Consul-Général Russe est peut-être l'unique personne qui connaisse, quelque peu, les véritables intentions de MM. Ristits et Gruics, à qui il donne des conseils en toute occasion.

Si la Porte se tient ferme, et les Puissances s'abstiennent, nous verrons en quelques jours à quoi nous en tenir.

No. 95.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 443.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 5, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 428 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a French translation of an article from the "Lloyd of Pesth," stating that the decorations recently conferred upon the Russian Ambassador and the members of the Russian Embassy were intended to manifest the entire confidence of the Emperor in the intentions of Russia with respect to affairs in the East.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Extract from an Article in the "Lloyd de Pest."

(Traduction.)

LE "Lloyd de Pest" fait observer à propos de la distinction dont M. de Nowikoff a été l'objet :—

"En présence de la méfiance hautement témoignée par une grande partie de l'opinion publique à l'égard de la Russie, l'Empereur François Joseph a voulu montrer d'une manière non-équivoque, que rien n'était venu troubler, pas plus ces derniers temps qu'auparavant, les rapports sincères et amicaux existant entre les Cabinets d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Russie, et que précisément là, où l'on est bien informé de la situation, on ne doute aucunement que la Russie ne poursuive une politique parfaitement loyale. Il est donc incontestable qu'on a affaire ici à une importante manifestation de confiance dans les intentions de la Russie par rapport à la question d'Orient—intentions pures et libres de toute arrière-pensée. Cette manifestation de confiance ne manquera pas son effet sur l'Empereur Alexandre, et contribuera sans doute à rendre de prime-abord impossible toute politique opposée que tel ou tel homme d'Etat Russe pourrait conseiller à son Souverain."

No. 96.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 444.)

My Lord, *Vienna, July 5, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the "Correspondance Autrichienne" of yesterday evening, reporting the language of the principal journals of Vienna on the declaration of war against Turkey by Servia and Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Extract from the "Correspondance Autrichienne" of July 4, 1876.

REVUE DES JOURNAUX.—Les journaux précisent leur manière de voir en ce qui concerne la nouvelle phase de la question d'Orient inaugurée par l'action offensive de la Serbie et du Monténégro. Ils expriment généralement la conviction que la tournure qu'ont prise les choses à nos frontières met en jeu les intérêts vitaux de la Monarchie Autrichienne. A ce propos on fait ressortir tout particulièrement que l'Autriche-Hongrie doit empêcher coûte que coûte toute modification du *statu quo* territorial dans ces contrées et spécialement la formation d'un grand Etat Serbe. Une des nos feuilles, "La Presse," dit à ce sujet : "En examinant l'attitude des Puissances on se convaincra aisément que, si elles sont toutes intéressées à la grande question d'Orient qui comprend Constantinople, l'Autriche-Hongrie et la Russie ont seules, pour le moment, leurs intérêts engagés dans le conflit Turco-Serbe. Dans de telles circonstances l'entrevue de Reichstadt domine la situation, qu'il y soit pris ou non des arrangements. Dans le premier cas le Comte Andrassy ne perdra pas de vue, nous en sommes persuadés, les

intérêts de l'Autriche; dans le second l'Empire aurait à y veiller seul et à régler sa politique en conséquence. La réunion de divers pays qui s'opérerait sur le bas Danube conformément au principe des nationalités ne rappellerait en rien celle de pays Italiens et Allemands qui a eu lieu à nos frontières. De la part de nations civilisées le besoin de s'unir est tout naturel, c'est une conséquence de leur développement historique; mais l'insurrection en Bosnie et en Herzégovine n'a été d'abord qu'une guerre locale, une guerre de paysans, laquelle n'a revêtu, en apparence, un caractère national que depuis le moment où la Serbie et le Monténégro ont troublé la paix avec une frivolité sans exemple."

"Le Fremdenblatt" reproche également aux Princes de Serbie et de Monténégro d'avoir troublé la paix sans le moindre motif. Tandis que les Herzégoviniens et les Bosniaques, dit cette feuille, se sont soulevés pour se délivrer de l'oppression des Turcs, ces princes n'ont tiré l'épée que pour annexer des pays convoités: "Le Prince Milan et le Prince Nicolas, ajoute 'Le Fremdenblatt,' sont las de n'être rien ou à peu près rien en Europe. Ils veulent être quelque chose et pour atteindre ce but l'Hospodar de Serbie ne craint ni parjure, ni félonie, ni rébellion contre son Suzerain légitime, tandis que, de son côté, le Prince Monténégrin n'hésite pas à troubler la paix internationale."

"La Nouvelle Presse Libre" dit: "L'Autriche a tout intérêt à ce que la Turquie l'emporte dans la lutte qui vient de s'engager; c'est là pour elle une question de vie ou de mort. Car si la Turquie succombait, l'Autriche se verrait constamment menacée du côté du sud."

"La Tagespresse" déplore surtout le manque de clarté qui règne dans l'opinion publique au sujet du but que poursuit l'Autriche et de sa situation vis-à-vis des événements en Orient. Ce manque de clarté, dit-elle, qui pourrait devenir funeste à l'Empire et pèse sur l'Autriche comme un cauchemar, ne disparaîtrait pas tant que l'Allemagne n'aurait pas soulevé le voile épais qui entoure sa politique en Orient. Alors seulement la politique Autrichienne qui doit viser avant tout à empêcher la formation de grands Etats Slaves à nos frontières, verrait devant elle une voie toute tracée.

"La Gazette Allemande" estime que pour la politique étrangère de l'Autriche il ne reste plus rien à faire qu'à retourner à ses anciennes traditions concernant l'Orient! "l'abandon de ces traditions ayant si fortement ébranlé la position et le prestige de notre Etat."

No. 97.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 387.)

Foreign Office, July 8, 1876.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador informed me, in conversation this afternoon, that his reply to a communication which his Government had received from that of Russia as to the course to be followed with regard to the war in Eastern Europe, they had answered to the effect that their policy—for the present, at all events—would be one of absolute non-intervention, and that they hoped that it might be possible to localise the war, and keep it within its present limits.

As an evidence of the intentions of the Italian Government, General Menabrea said that a Circular Instruction had been addressed to all the Prefects, strictly enjoining them to prevent any enrolments of men for service in the present conflict.

In reply to an inquiry which his Excellency put to me, I stated that our policy was, like that of Italy, one of entire abstinence from intervention, so long as other Powers preserved the same attitude.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 98.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 68. Political.)

Bucharest, June 28, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch in cypher of the 24th instant, informing your Lordship that the Minister for Foreign Affairs here requested the intervention of Her Majesty's Government, with the view, if possible, to prevent Turkish ships of war from ascending the Danube to that part which separates Roumania from Servia, in the event of the latter going to war with Turkey, I have the honour to report that M. Cogalniceano, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed me and my French colleague that he had received a communication from the Government at Constantinople, asking whether, in the event of hostilities with Servia, Turkish ships of war might be allowed to anchor off their shore; and, at the same time, one from Belgrade, asking what steps would be taken should shot fired at Turkish ships fall on Roumanian ground.

M. Cogalniceano informs me that no answer has as yet been given, but that they had quite decided not to allow a conflict to go on so close to their frontier as to compel the inhabitants of the numerous villages situated along the Danube to abandon their homes. In order, if possible, to avoid such an eventuality, the Roumanian Government had resolved to ask the intervention of England and France.

M. Cogalniceano went on to say that by their neutrality and friendly conduct towards Turkey ever since he had been in power the Roumanians had alienated themselves from Servia, and at the same time received no acknowledgment for their services to Turkey. At Constantinople a great want of civility was shown to their Agent—when a communication had to be made it was expressed in language most offensive to their feelings. He went on to say that, nevertheless, the Government at Bucharest continued at a great expense to take severe measures to prevent Bulgarians and arms crossing the Danube; and that all they asked in return was a little more courtesy.

In consequence of the alarming news lately received from Servia, 4,000 men of the regular army have been mobilized, of which 1,500 are now sent close to the Servian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 98*.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 70. Political.)

Ragusa, June 30, 1876.

My Lord,

I WAS informed yesterday that a telegram had been received here from Baron Rodich, stating that, according to instructions from Vienna, the allowance for subsistence is to be continued to the refugees as heretofore; and that no pressure is to be used by the Austrian authorities to force these people to return to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 99.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 71. Political.)

Ragusa, June 30, 1876.

My Lord,

M. YONINE, the Russian Consul-General here, who is accredited to Prince Nikita as the Czar's Diplomatic Agent, arrived at Ragusa this morning, and intends to go to Cettigné on Sunday, the 2nd proximo. He tells me that he shall remain some time in Montenegro.

I found M. Yonine very uncommunicative respecting the situation. He had been surprised on his arrival at Ragusa at finding that Montenegro had not yet declared war, because when he left Vienna hostilities were expected to commence immediately between Turkey and Servia, and of course Montenegro would follow the lead of the latter. I asked him if that was quite certain, and he said that neither Russia nor any other Power was going to put any pressure upon Montenegro to force her to adopt any particular policy, and so he concluded that the Prince would certainly decide for war.

He told me that he considered General Tchernieff as a good, but somewhat rash, soldier; and that, as no one knew how the Servians would fight, the result of the campaign on that side was very problematical. If the Servians turned out as good soldiers as the Montenegrins, there would be no doubt of the result being disastrous to the Turks. He thought that the chances were that it would be a most indecisive war; that there would

be neither victors nor vanquished, because neither side would be able to follow up a victory, even if they ever achieved what could be called one.

He assured me that all his information was that Constantinople was in a state of anarchy, and the Turkish Government in the utmost disorder, implying that he counted upon another revolution there. He presumed that England expected the same, and had sent her twenty-five iron-clads to seize upon the Dardanelles if necessary. He thought that England had done a great service in upsetting the policy of the Berlin Memorandum, which committed the Five Powers to something utterly impracticable, which, if he had not arrived too late at Berlin, he would have tried to prevent. He was quite of opinion that all attempts at a peaceable solution of the difficulties were useless, and that all negotiations had better be deferred until the combatants should have had enough of fighting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 100.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 445.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 6, 1876.*

A TELEGRAM in this morning's paper announces the arrest, on a charge of high treason, of Milefus, the Slav agitator and leader of the Slav party in the Hungarian Diet at Neusatz, for which place he is Deputy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 101.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 9, 1876.*

CONSTANT fighting has been going on during the last few days, except about Nisch, with apparently no decisive result except heavy losses on both sides, which of course tell mostly on the Servians.

Belina has not been taken yet, but the Servian reports say that in a battle before that place there were 700 Turks killed, for they buried that number on Thursday.

Not only has Saitchar not been taken, but on the contrary, Servians maintain that after incessant fighting during five days they have succeeded in advancing on Turkish territory on the road to Widdin from Negotin.

In the valley of Ibar Servians under General Zach (admit ?) they have been at first defeated after a sanguinary engagement; but one of the columns, it is said, penetrated into Turkish territory, and reinforcements being expected this division was to resume the offensive yesterday.

No. 102.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 9, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July 9, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Porte's objection to the neutrality of the Danube may provoke difficulties and change attitude of the Principalities, who earnestly request intervention of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 103.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 289.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 26, 1876.*

I INQUIRED to-day from M. de Giers whether any action had been taken by Prince Gortchakow in regard to the suggestion that the Prince of Montenegro should

place himself in direct communication with the Porte, and that his services as mediator, if successful, between the Porte and insurgents would meet with their recompense.

M. de Giers said that he had mentioned to Prince Gortchakow what I had previously said to him on this subject, but that he had not learnt that any action had been taken by his Highness in the matter.

He stated that Count Andrassy had received a communication from the Prince of Montenegro in reply to an appeal from him, that, although he should be thankful if a pacification could be effected, and happy to play the part of a mediator, he considered that it was useless to attempt it, as the moment was not propitious, the feelings of animosity on both sides were too strong, and the Christians were too embittered by the sufferings they had undergone to render possible any hopes of pacification except on terms which would not be accepted by the Porte.

From this reply of the Prince of Montenegro it is evident that his arrangements are concluded with Servia, and that he is only awaiting the moment to make common cause with Servia and the insurgents against Turkey.

M. de Giers stated that General Ignatiew had telegraphed that a collision between Turkey and Servia was inevitable, and he expressed his fears that it would prove a stimulant to Turkish fanaticism, and render the position of the Christians at Constantinople unsafe and untenable.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 104.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 292. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 2, 1876.*

IN conversation to-day with an official person, who is well informed on foreign political matters, I learnt from him that M. Yonine, the Russian Consul-General at Ragusa, who had been lately at Vienna, has been strongly urging Prince Gortchakow to allow Austria to annex Bosnia, and to further this arrangement as far as the Imperial Government could do so, in order to prevent the possibility of any future collision arising out of the present Eastern complications between Austria and Russia.

With reference to this information, I may observe to your Lordship that for some time back General Ignatiew has entertained an opinion that Austria was looking to the inheritance of the Sultan, and to become the possessor of Constantinople.

This is no surmise, for I was told it by the person to whom General Ignatiew mentioned it.

I therefore suspect that M. Yonine has advised Prince Gortchakow to permit Austria to annex Bosnia, with an ulterior view to the annexation by Russia of Northern Bulgaria up to the Balkan.

It is evident, I think, that Russia would never consent to allow Austria to advance in the direction of Constantinople without occupying a strategical position to cover that capital, and I consequently attach some importance to the information I received from an unquestionable source.

I may also observe to your Lordship that M. Yonine has considerable influence with Prince Gortchakow, and his opinion and advice are likely to have weight with his Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 105.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 297.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 5, 1876.*

M. DE GIERS mentioned to me the other day that M. Ghika, the Roumanian Agent, had expressed to him the wish of his Government that the neutrality of the Danube should be declared during the approaching contest between Servia and Turkey, and that no armed vessels should be allowed to menace the territories on the banks of that river.

He stated that the Roumanian Government was anxious to preserve a perfect neutrality in the coming struggle, and that it was desirable that nothing should occur which might give rise to any complaint in regard to the hostile operations on the Danube.

M. de Giers observed that his appeal should rather be made at Vienna than at St. Petersburgh, the Danube being the great artery of Austrian Commerce.

His Excellency stated that he did not find any special reference bearing on this subject in the Treaty of Paris, or in those Treaties regarding more especially the Principalities, but he advised him to suggest to his Government that the question should be addressed to the Porte.

M. Ghika appears to have taken M. de Giers' advice, for he has since informed him that the Roumanian Agent at Constantinople had spoken to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and had only received an evasive and unsatisfactory reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 106.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 298.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, July 5, 1876.

AT an interview with M. de Giers on the 3rd instant, I inquired of his Excellency whether, as I was informed, the French Government had invited the Imperial Government to join the other Powers in a solemn warning to Servia, and whether they had acceded to this invitation.

M. de Giers said that he had received no direct information from Prince Gortchakow on this subject, as the last courier had not yet arrived, but he presumed that some step of the nature to which I had referred had been taken; for in a telegram to M. de Novikow, the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, Prince Gortchakow had spoken of an "effort suprême," which was to be made at Belgrade.

I ventured to observe that, although the die was already cast, and that there could be little hope of this "supreme effort" having a successful result, still the importance of this step cannot be denied. It has given a proof of the re-establishment of the European concert, and it places on record the disapproval by the European Powers of the act of warfare undertaken by Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 107.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 302.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, July 6, 1876.

THE Russian press (including the "Agence Russe," which is more or less under official inspiration, of which I inclose three articles) is seeking to throw on England the responsibility of the war between Servia and the Porte, and is at the same time endeavouring to stimulate the public opinion of Europe against Turkey by relating the atrocities reported to have been committed by the Turks in Bulgaria.

There is no doubt a very strong sympathy on the part of the Russian press and the public in favour of the Servians and insurgents, and I am told that private pecuniary assistance is being given to them, but from what I can learn, there is no present intention to abandon the attitude of neutrality which the Government adopted when they warned both Servia and Montenegro that if they acted against their counsels, they would do so at their own risk and peril, and could expect neither assistance nor support from Russia.

I further inclose to your Lordship an article from the "Golos," published by the "Agence Russe," on the question of peace and war. This article declares that the Russian nation can have no other aspiration than that for peace, and that Russia has no desire to extend her frontier, already too large either in the east or in the south in Asia or in Europe. Russia, it continues to state, pursues her object for the pacification of the foreigners provinces, and while doing so, can entertain no ideas of a partition of Turkey, nor of any European war, nor of any annexation in the East.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Extracts from the "Agence Russe."

St. Pétersbourg, Mardi soir, le $\frac{7}{19}$ *Juin*, 1876.

LES journaux Russes ont reçus de leurs correspondants particuliers des télégrammes leur annonçant que l'armée Monténégrine étant entrée en lice, que le corps Serbe, commandé par le Général Tchernieff avait commencé le bombardement de Niksch, (!) et que les Bulgares de l'arrondissement de Viddine s'étaient insurgés. D'autre part, un télégramme de source Turque dit que les troupes Turques de Nikch auraient fait subir au corps Serbe mentionné plus haut de grandes pertes. Il est prudent d'attendre la confirmation de cette nouvelle, que nous aimons à croire tout au moins exagérée. Mais alors même qu'elle ne serait vraie qu'en partie, elle prouverait qu'il ne suffit pas d'être un général brave et entreprenant d'avoir été heureux en Asie alors qu'on avait sous ses ordres des soldats disciplinés, aguerris et des officiers compétents, pour conduire en plaine de jeunes miliciens mal-armés et qui n'ont jamais vu le feu contre une forteresse défendue par la meilleure troupe régulière Turque et par des canons Krupp. Dans le cas où les télégrammes en question auraient dit la vérité, ce serait là une de ces fautes qui ne peuvent se justifier au point de vue de l'art militaire.

En ce qui nous concerne, nous apprenons de source certaine un fait qui prouve une fois de plus où en sont les choses en Turquie: Deux prêtres ont été pendus par les Turcs à Philippopoli dans leurs habits sacerdotaux!!

Le déplorable conflit armé, gros de complications de tout genre, que la diplomatie Russe signale depuis des années et qu'elle a tout fait pour conjurer en conviant à cette œuvre de préservation générale toutes les Grandes Puissances, ce conflit redoutable a commencé. Quand en pareil cas le premier coup de canon est parti, il est toujours difficile de prévoir quand et où sera tiré le dernier. Il n'aurait dépendu que de la Porte que l'insurrection de l'Herzégovine se fût terminée pacifiquement et avantageusement pour tous. La Porte avait là une rare occasion de profiter de l'appui de toute l'Europe et de se l'assurer pour l'avenir. Il n'a également dépendu que de l'Angleterre que cette crise, commencée entre Souverain et sujets, ne dégénérât pas en conflit armé entre Suzerain et vassaux. Il dépend peut-être encore d'elle,—qui seule fait opposition aux autres Puissances,—que ce conflit ne dégénère à son tour en une guerre générale entre les Chrétiens d'Orient et les Turcs. Mais qu'elle le sache bien, si elle continue son opposition égoïste et ne se rallie pas à l'Europe dans une commune résolution de paix et d'équité pendant qu'il en est temps encore, demain ce sera trop tard, car demain peut amener la plus terrible des conflagrations dont l'histoire ait jamais été témoin, celle d'une lutte d'extermination entre le monde Musulman et le monde Chrétien, lutte dont l'Angleterre serait la première victime. Elle a beau faire en effet, et beau s'appeler en Europe Puissance Musulman par excellence, elle sera toujours en Asie la première Puissance Chrétienne dont le joug pèse sur des millions de vrais Musulmans et comme telle la première en cause et la première assaillie. Ce sont là des vérités qu'on connaît fort bien à Bombay, mais dont un regrettable aveuglement empêche les sphères officielles de Londres de se rendre compte.

Il est pourtant dans d'autres sphères des esprits en Angleterre qui voient plus clair et qui cherchent de tous leurs efforts à réagir contre les fatales erreurs d'une politique traditionnelle surannée et à l'empêcher d'entraîner à sa perte la Puissance Britannique. Nous avons sous les yeux et nous donnerons dans notre prochain numéro quelques excellents d'articles qui prouvent combien cette opinion là commence à se faire jour en Angleterre.

Paris, le 30 *Juin*, 1876.

"L'Agence Russe," faisant rebondir vers Paris le télégramme reçu de Zara par la "Gazette de la Bourse," a été la première à annoncer ici le fait formel de l'engagement des hostilités. Le télégramme original relatif à l'incident Zorab vient de causer une vive émotion dans tout Paris. On a vu se dessiner le rôle que l'Angleterre compte jouer dans le drame qui commence. Si l'Angleterre officielle prend parti quand même pour le fanatisme Musulman contre ses propres agents et contre les agents des autres Puissances, il n'y aura plus qu'à inviter Mr. Disraeli d'avoir à se officialiser impériser le titre d'Impératrice aux Indes. L'Angleterre ne serait plus Européenne qu'à titre secondaire et ce serait le point de vue de l'Islam qui primerait tout dorénavant dans les Conseils de cette Puissance. A part le "Journal des Débats," si Français de forme et si Anglais de fonds, à part aussi deux ou trois journaux soldés de valeurs Ottomanes en souffrance,

la presse Française fait tout entière des vœux pour la cause des Slavs et Chrétiens de Turquie. Vous pouvez remarquer que "l'Europe Diplomatique," le "Moniteur Universel," et "l'Estafette," trois organes d'inspiration sérieuse et très diplomatique, se sont plu à faire remarquer combien les événements s'étaient précipités, et sur la pente la plus funeste, depuis le jour où l'Angleterre avait rompu bruyamment l'action des autres Puissances et réclamer la fameuse "leading part."

Le sentiment général, c'est qu'il faut que cette guerre Turco-Chrétienne soit rapide comme un autre Sadowa, et que sur un ou deux coups décisifs l'Europe puisse intervenir impérieusement, déclarer la partie terminée et imposer le règlement final dans le sens que toutes les discussions des derniers mois ont affirmé sans trop de divergences. Car de deux choses l'une : Ou bien cette période suprême de la crise sera très courte et très simple, ou bien elle aura des prolongements presque indéfinis, d'une complexité et d'une gravité que tout le monde seul et que personne ne peut définir.

Les Cruautés en Bulgarie.—Nous avons dans un de nos derniers numéros donné un aperçu authentique des affreuses cruautés commises en Bulgarie par les Bachi-Bozouks et les Tcherkesses. On lit à propos de ces cruautés dans le "Goloss :" "Les actes épouvantables qui se commettent en Bulgarie ont fini par émouvoir l'opinion publique de l'Europe. Les journaux qui s'étaient épris soudain d'une grande tendresse pour les Musulmans n'ont pu eux-mêmes se dispenser de rendre compte de ces horreurs; les journaux Anglais entr'autres n'osent plus cacher les faits. Les moins sincères s'empresseront de dire que les embarras causés en Orient par les insurrections de l'Herzégovine et de la Bosnie sont déjà suffisamment grands sans encore venir compliquer les questions par des alarmes à propos de la Bulgarie. Ils auront beau parler ces prétendus sages, ils n'empêcheront pas que tous ceux qui ont quelques sentiments d'honnêteté et d'humanité au cœur ne trouvent, comme nous, qu'il est impossible d'admettre que l'Europe reste impassible à l'égorgement de toute une population, à la ruine des provinces les plus fertiles de la Turquie. Serait-ce parce que le peuple Bulgare se distingue entre tous par sa douceur, son amour du travail paisible et de ses foyers, qu'on devra l'abandonner à la fureur enragée des Bachi-Bozouks et des Cherkesses et de toutes les hordes barbares qu'il plaît à la Porte de déchaîner sur lui? Nous ne qualifierons pas cette manière . . . . . prudente d'envisager les faits et dussions-nous soulever contre nous ces accusations mille fois répétées d'exagération calculée pour satisfaire de secrets desseins, nous élèverons la voix contre la conduite des Turcs à l'égard des Bulgares. Honte à l'Europe, honte à l'humanité s'il ne se trouve plus personne pour réprouver les horribles atrocités dont nous recevons journellement les récits!"

Paix ou Guerre.—L'abondance des matières ne nous a pas permis d'insérer dans notre dernier numéro l'important article suivant du "Goloss" sur lequel nous appelons l'attention de nos lecteurs :—

"Y aura-t-il la guerre? Voici la question qui est sur la plupart des lèvres à l'heure présente. La solution a été étudiée sous toutes ses faces par un grand nombre d'organes de la presse étrangère; les opinions les plus hardies, les plus invraisemblables se sont fait jour à ce propos. Mais si l'on a prêté quelqu'attention à toutes les polémiques de ces derniers temps, on verra que nulle part la paix n'a de plus ardents prosélytes que chez nous. Chacun reconnaîtra que la nation Russe moins que toute autre est entachée de ce chauvinisme exalté qui pousse à la recherche d'une vaine gloire et amène pour résultat des sacrifices énormes et irréparables. Le peuple Russe a démontré sur maints champs de bataille que lorsqu'il s'agit de son honneur national il fait preuve d'une énergie indomptable pour le défendre. Cela est loin de vouloir dire que le peuple Russe ait des inclinations guerrières et ne sache pas apprécier tous les bienfaits de la paix. La Russie contemporaine déborde de tant de ressources matérielles à mettre en exploitation; son Gouvernement a entrepris la solution de problèmes sociaux si considérables, qu'il serait vraiment risible d'admettre que la nation Russe ait en ce moment d'autres aspirations que celles qui la dirigent en réalité vers les travaux de la paix. Si quelques publicistes imbus de préventions surannées continuent à croire ou à faire semblant de croire à ces fables 'du testament de Pierre le Grand,' qui lègue à ses descendants le soin de conquérir Constantinople afin 'd'arborer le drapeau Russe sur la coupole de St. Sophie,' il serait par trop fort que ces fables servent à étayer le système de défiance qui prévaut jusqu'à présent contre la Russie. Notre pays n'a pas le moindre désir d'étendre ses frontières, déjà trop grandes, ni à l'Orient, ni au sud, ni en Asie, ni en Europe. Ce n'est que la plus impérieuse des nécessités qui pourrait lui faire prendre les armes. Or, nous chercherions en vain pour le

moment quelle nécessité nous pousserait à nous départir de notre rôle pacifique dans les événements qui se déroulent en Orient. Nous savons bien que tout le monde ici ne voit pas les choses sous le même jour que nous. Dans plus d'une occasion on nous a adressé le reproche de voir trop en rose. Malgré le sentiment de conciliation qui domine chez nous, un petit nombre de nos organes se signale par des vues pessimistes que nous regrettons profondément. Ceux-là voient dans une guerre Européenne le moyen de résoudre toutes les difficultés de notre continent, et ils ne sont pas loin d'accuser de matérialisme, de décadence morale tous leurs autres confrères qui se font les promoteurs de la paix. Si on suivait ces ardents champions jusqu'au bout de leur raisonnement, on en arriverait à conclure que ce n'est que pendant la guerre que florissent toutes les vertus, la vertu patriotique en tête. Pour être conséquent avec eux-mêmes, ces stoïques esprits atrabilaires ne devraient pas se borner à désirer la guerre, ils devraient nous souhaiter encore les défaites comme moyens encore plus énergiques contre déplorables erreurs, et à l'appui de leur thèse, ils pourraient nous présenter par exemple l'Allemagne, couverte de gloire en 1870, en but aujourd'hui à tous les mécomptes, tandis que la France, vaincue par elle, après avoir guéri ses blessures, marche dans une voie de progrès économique extraordinaire. Ces excellents logiciens nous souhaiteraient ainsi les plus grands maux, afin de nous mieux porter après. On voit à quelles extravagances tout cela aboutit. Nous tenons pour notre part à ne point abandonner nos espérances de paix. Nous continuerons quant à nous à préférer ceux qui par leur modération de langage cherchent à pallier les dispositions hostiles à notre endroit. Il serait oiseux de ne pas reconnaître le danger. Mais à quoi bon l'exagérer? Les têtes brûlées de la presse devraient se dire que leurs déclarations ne sont bonnes qu'à dérouter les bonnes intentions qui luttent encore pour le maintien de la paix. Avant tout, les publicistes en question feraient bien d'éviter la confusion qu'ils établissent entre deux points bien distincts: l'amélioration du sort des Chrétiens en Orient, et le maintien ou la déchéance de l'Empire Ottoman en Europe. Nous avons toujours pensé et soutenu qu'il était possible de mettre un frein aux violences des Turcs, d'assurer le sort des rayahs sans provoquer une guerre Européenne. Or, nous demandons comment nos prétendu politiques voudraient arriver au démembrement de la Turquie sans amener des complications entre les Puissances? Il est vraiment impossible de prendre au sérieux ces plans de partage de la Turquie. S'ils émanent de la presse Juive de Vienne, afin d'élaborer nos hommes d'Etat, ils ne méritent que le mépris; mais s'ils ont pris naissance dans le cerveau des politiciens dont nous parlons, nous nous bornerons à lever les épaules. Notre opinion est celle-ci: aussi longtemps que les relations des Puissances se maintiendront dans l'état actuel, aussi longtemps que la Russie s'en tiendra au rôle irréprochable qu'elle s'est tracé dans la politique de pacification qu'elle poursuit, il ne sera pas question ni de partage de la Turquie, ni par conséquent de guerre Européenne. La Russie n'ayant aucune idée d'annexion en Orient, ce n'est pas elle que l'on peut accuser de provoquer la guerre. Reste à chercher la Puissance qui, par ses actes, a tout l'air de vouloir empêcher le règlement pacifique des complications actuelles. La situation est tout autre si l'on subordonne la paix ou la guerre à l'amélioration du sort des Chrétiens en Orient ou à leur abandon complet à la fureur des Turcs. Les Puissances ont parfaitement, ce nous semble, circonscrit le débat en se bornant à rechercher les garanties propres à satisfaire les rayahs. Les Puissances n'ont pas déserté cette mission. Leurs intentions n'ont pas varié; au contraire, elles s'affirment davantage par ce fait qu'elles s'efforcent de trouver les moyens de prévenir dans l'avenir le retour de malheurs que les Turcs seuls, malgré les intentions qu'ils affichent, ne sont pas en état d'empêcher. S'il est question d'intervention, ce n'est que dans le sens d'obtenir les garanties en question. Si l'alliance de l'Autriche, de l'Allemagne, et de la Russie, s'est affermie, si la France et l'Italie se sont ralliées sincèrement à la politique des Trois Puissances du Nord, si enfin l'Angleterre elle-même est rebutée par le spectacle que lui donne la Turquie, avec qui donc la Russie aurait-elle à faire la guerre? Serait-ce avec la Turquie seulement, la Turquie de Mourad V et des Midhat? Il y a bien là vraiment de quoi faire tant de bruit. En résumé, il nous paraît que la situation n'est pas aussi désespérée que les empiriques voudraient le faire croire. Gardons nous donc de ne voir la solution aux difficultés actuelles que dans des résolutions extrêmes, ces résolutions n'étant nullement commandées par les événements."

No. 108.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 303. Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, July 5, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE learnt from a private but not official source that a large concentration of Russian troops is being effected on the frontier of Bessarabia, and the number of these forces was stated at 270,000 men.

It was added that the Emperor was to hold a grand review of these troops on his passage to the Crimea. I have reason to suppose that, although the numbers were exaggerated, the fact of a concentration of troops is true.

I consequently asked M. de Giers to-day whether there were to be any manœuvres in Southern Russia on a large scale in the autumn, at which the Emperor would be present.

M. de Giers, without entering into any particulars, replied that the Emperor annually held a parade of the troops in the south, but that the Emperor had countermanded the parade for this year, on purpose that it might not be viewed as a military demonstration and give rise to false deductions.

To my inquiry whether under these circumstances the troops would be ordered back to their quarters, M. de Giers was unable to reply.

His Excellency stated, however, that the parade this year would have taken place in the immediate vicinity of Buda, so that, I presume, the concentration must be in that neighbourhood.

I venture to suggest that Her Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa should be instructed to make inquiry and to report to your Lordship as to the amount of troops said to be concentrated in Bessarabia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 109.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 299.) *Berlin, July 7, 1876.*

My Lord,

M. DE RADOWITZ informed me this morning that the Russian Ambassador, M. d'Oubril, had lately questioned him on the subject of the policy of the German Government in the event of a war breaking out between Turkey and Servia, and that in reply he had assured his Excellency that the German Government were determined to abstain from all intervention.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 110.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 300.) *Berlin, July 7, 1876.*

My Lord,

A NUMBER of leading articles have appeared during the past month in local and so-called semi-official papers throughout this country in which the most fulsome praise of Russia alternates with sneers and even offensive language towards England. Latterly the attitude taken up by England in Eastern affairs has furnished the principal theme for the attack made upon it by the journalists.

I have not thought it necessary to trouble your Lordship with translations of these articles, which appeared principally in the "National Zeitung," as I had good reason to believe that the bulk of them were written by a Russian subject resident in Germany, and represented rather the feelings he sought to inspire amongst his readers than the feelings of the country itself.

There is no denying that a feeling unsympathetic towards England does exist among the less educated, or lower middle classes in this country, and this feeling has been sedulously cultivated and nourished by several organs of the press for many months past.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, however, this feeling, arising partly from a sentimental grievance as to the supposed benevolent neutrality shown by England towards France in the late war, and assisted by a certain commercial jealousy, is really superficial; and if local, and even semi-official, newspapers have encouraged and fostered it, it was more to call attention to the gratitude Germany owed to the person of the Czar for his attitude in 1870 than from any wish to sow distrust in German minds towards England.

The perpetual reiteration of the same statements is, however, producing a certain effect. The tone of these newspapers may fairly be said to be prompted by a wish to show Russia openly how much she is appreciated by Germany, and the author of these articles interpolates the praises of his Sovereign with denunciations of English treachery and barbarity, such as appeared in the Russian papers before the war of 1854.

The last effusion of this description, and one taking rank far above any newspaper article, is a pamphlet published by Professor Von Freitschke, an eminent member both of the Reichstag and Prussian Landstag, a strong Liberal and devoted follower of Prince Bismarck, to whom, since 1864 more especially, he, the first essayist in Germany, has devoted his pen, and to whose literary power innumerable converts to the idea of German unity have been attributed.

Coming from such a source, this pamphlet has excited considerable attention, although there is no reason to believe that Prince Bismarck was ever cognizant of its publication. Some very remarkable extracts, translations of which are inclosed, are reproduced in the "Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of the 2nd instant, one of the so-called semi-official papers, of which he is part proprietor and editor.

Your Lordship will notice that the same number of the paper that publishes this diatribe against England reproduces as a "feuilleton" the story of the Duke of Anhalt and the defection of England from Germany under the Duke of Ormond in the beginning of the 18th century.

I would, however, point out to your Lordship that the author of this pamphlet, in spite of his great talent, is a fanatical enthusiast, has been stone deaf for many years, and is considered by many to be almost in his dotage.

Some bitter rejoinders have already appeared in the "Volks Zeitung" and "Vossische Zeitung," and others will doubtless follow.

I have thought it advisable to forward this translation and explanation to your Lordship, in the event, far from unlikely, that the attention of the English public should be called to this publication by over-zealous correspondents, not too well acquainted with its real history, by means of which it might acquire an exaggerated importance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Translation of Articles in the German Press.

TURKEY AND THE GREAT POWERS.—Speak highly as you like of British freedom, the England of the present day represents among nations the Power of Reaction. Her existence as a Power at all is a distinct anachronism. Her Power was created at those good old times when battles of vast importance were decided by hand engagements and hired mercenaries, and it was thought good statesmanship, regardless of nature and history, to annex in all countries well placed naval fortresses and naval stations. In this century of National States, and large armies so cosmopolitan, a commercial Power, can no longer claim existence; the time will and must come when Gibraltar shall return to Spain, Malta to the Italians, Heligoland to the Germans, and the Mediterranean to the bordering populations. It is hardly quite fair to compare the England of to-day with the Holland of the eighteenth century, as the tremendous bustle of her social life shows the nation still to possess a powerful motive power, and it is easily possible that if she feels herself seriously menaced in her commerce she may yet once again astonish the world with her determined daring. But the intellectual horizon of her statesmen is too limited, their views of the world have become just as old-fashioned and stupid as in olden times the policy of the falling Netherlands. Surfeited with gold and gain the English, invulnerable as they are in a hundred spots of their wide-spread Empire, feel they desire nothing more in the world, and have only the shadow of their power of by-gone centuries to oppose to the fresh rising forces of the present. They, therefore, obstinately oppose all salutary changes in the relations of States. Hers is the fault that naval warfare still bears the character of recognized piracy. Her opposition rendered nugatory the attempt

of Germany and Russia at the Brussels Conference to set some limit to the horrors of war on land. If we leave out of consideration the sickly and utterly helpless sympathies accorded to Italian unity by the English Press, the English nation has during the last two decades shown nothing but malicious enmity towards every young Power striving for the light which lifted its head afresh among nations.

Passing to Russian policy, Professor Freitschke says, "Every London newspaper testifies to the fact how little is known there of the mighty revolution which has taken place in Russian affairs. The Emperor Alexander has not only opened new fields for the development of Russian social life by serious reforms, but has also given a different shape to her foreign policy. Nothing but the blindest hate could justify the statement that the Russia of to-day is pressing with undue ascendancy upon Europe. Russia has shown in the United States, in Italy, Germany, and in the struggle with Rome, that she knows how to appreciate the living forces of the century. After so many proofs of wisdom and desire for peace she cannot expect that we shall judge her Oriental views according to the absurd stories of the English Russophobists."

Professor Freitschke enters into an historical review of the relations for centuries existing between Mussulmans and Christians in Turkey, with a view of showing the impossibility of their amalgamation, and, coming down to recent events, says:

"A little honesty only, and no spirit of prophecy, is wanting to foretell the fate of the new Turkish reforms, as the same problem newly raised on the Bosphorus has puzzled the world for many years, when well-meaning diplomatists hoped to bless the Papal States with a Constitution; a Constitutional Sultan, and a Constitutional Pope, are equally impossible."

With regard to the attitude of Germany towards the Eastern troubles, the author says: "It is not very creditable to find repeated in certain portions of the German press the English standard phrases of objection to Moscovite ambition. We honest Germans should at once reflect that the two natural opponents in the East, Russia and England, should first think of their own respective strength, and should then pursue their respective objects with that complete absence of conscientious motives that has been peculiar to all oriental conflicts for tens of centuries. Seriously speaking, it cannot be denied that Russia has always more correctly judged the character of the Turkish nation, the unchangeability of her theocracy, than most other Powers. In this respect, the Russians were always superior to their opponents, even in those times when they in their pride understood the power of resistance of the Turks. The bitter irony displayed by the Russian Plenipotentiary in treating of the Reform Proposals of the Western Powers in the Paris Congress has found its complete justification in the events of the following decade."

The kernel of the despatch, according to the Professor, is the question of Constantinople itself, for the solution of which no one considers the time has arrived.

"Should the moment for its solution arrive, however," says he, "our rising nation will never stand on the side of the corpse. Since the seven years' war, we have made made some very unpleasant experiences of England's friendship. Russian policy must indeed commit unheard-of blunders to make Germany even dream of letting fall the hand of her old friend to throw herself into the arms of a faithless ally, whose policy is governed by exploded and obsolete views."

No. 111.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 301. Confidential.) *Berlin, July* 8, 1876.

My Lord,

HAVING heard that a number of guns, the last instalment of an order given some time since by the Servian Government to Messrs. Krupp, are about to be dispatched to their destination, I asked M. de Radowitz in course of conversation, if he had any information on the subject, and I at the same time endeavoured to ascertain through what channel these arms were forwarded to Servia.

M. de Radowitz said that although he had already heard it stated, he doubted the truth of the report, as he knew it to be a fact that Messrs. Krupp never executed orders for doubtful customers unless they were paid in advance; and he did not believe Servia, who had already expended her available resources in placing an army in the field, was in a position to incur so heavy an outlay as the purchase of ten or twelve of Krupp's field batteries.

However, he added, if the Servians have been provided with guns by German

manufacturers, the Imperial Government can no more interfere with the legitimate trade of Messrs. Krupp, than they can prevent the exportation, or inquire into the destination of the arms taken during the war, which are daily being purchased from the Government and resold by private contractors for the use of minor States in different parts of the world.

This last remark referred, no doubt, to the presence at Berlin of certain Greek agents, who are said to have arrived here for the purpose of purchasing arms,—but as the primary object of these individuals was to contract a loan, for which purpose they have ineffectually visited several monetary centres, their mission is likely to prove a failure.

I may here add that I have been reliably informed that a number of German subaltern officers, who have retired from the army in consequence of pecuniary difficulties, have lately proceeded to Servia, with a view to joining General Tchernaieff's corps d'armée.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 112.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

Bucharest, July 9, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

GOVERNMENT of the Principalities have received satisfactory information from Constantinople that the Porte consented to the neutrality of the Danube, on condition that the prohibition of arms through Roumania will be strictly observed.

No. 113.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received July* 10.)

Vienna, July 10, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

"(Confidential.)

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Monson:—

"Three Russian bills of exchange upon Baring Brothers for the aggregate sum of 9,000*l.* sterling, to the order of the Russian Consul at Ragusa, were sent to Trieste last week. The money was dispatched yesterday by steamer from Trieste to Ragusa. I can guarantee truth of this information."

No. 114.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.†—(*Received July* 10, *at night.*)

Vienna, July 10, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Emperor and Count Andrassy returned last night greatly satisfied with the interview at Reichstat. The telegram sent to Count Beust states that the Emperors parted on the best terms. They agreed to maintain the present principle of non-intervention, reserving for the future the expediency of coming to an understanding with the Great Powers, according to circumstances which may arise.

The Emperor will, I understand, meet Emperor William at Salzburg, on the 20th instant.

No. 115.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 11.)

(No. 20. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, June* 30, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch to Sir Henry Elliot, suggesting a total change in the system of administration in Bosnia, as being, in my opinion, the only

* Repeated to Paris, Vienna, Rome, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.

† Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Rome, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.

means by which the execution of promised reforms and progress in civilization will have any chance of being realized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 115.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

Bosna-Serai, June 26, 1876.

Sir,

THE fact that Moukhtar Pasha has been permitted to revictual Nichsich so completely without any opposition, and the declaration of peaceful intentions on the part of Servia, which, a few weeks ago, was said to be on the point of invading Bosnia, seems to indicate that a pacific termination of the insurrection is at hand.

The moment will therefore soon arrive when Europe will expect the reforms promised by Turkey to be executed, and I think it my duty to point out to your Excellency what appears to me the only possible manner in which there seems any chance of her being able to carry them out with moderate success.

In the first place, I would call your Excellency's attention to the fact that, from the conquest of Bosnia down to the year 1852, when Omer Pasha destroyed the power of the Bosniac Beys, the government and welfare of the country and its people had remained entirely in the hands of the native nobility—those who became Mussulmans to preserve their rank and possessions; and from 1852 to the present time it has been chiefly in the same hands, only in a less degree. It is particularly necessary to bear this in mind, because the neglected, impoverished, and unenlightened state of this country has been generally most erroneously attributed to the misrule of the Osmanli; whereas, in reality, it has been owing to that of the fanatic and ignorant Slav aristocracy, who have always been, and still are, averse to all change and progress, and even whose present idea is, as I shall presently show, that to live in peace with their Christian fellow-countrymen, they must be allowed to maintain their old supremacy and the servile condition of the Christians. Such was the case before 1852, when a rebellion of the Beys was suppressed, and the Porte ostensibly assumed the real government of the country; but the establishment of Medjlisses (Councils), which possess in fact all the real power of the administration, and which were, and are, formed by the most influential and generally the most intolerant of the half-ruined native aristocracy, gave them still the power to neutralize the efforts of the best officials sent here from Constantinople, and if not always to carry out their own views, at least to prevent any satisfactory progress.

Since I have been here, that is for the last sixteen years, they have been mainly composed of the same individuals, with the exception of those who have died, and who have been generally replaced by relatives. They are all persons who have by their position and corrupt practices regained considerable wealth and influence; and, representing the principles of the most fanatical and ignorant part of the Mussulman community, that is to say, of the majority, they can always insure their re-election. Although members of the Medjlisses are forbidden to become farmers of the taxes, they are all usually concerned in these speculations, the ostensible farmers being merely the active partners; and this the Provincial Councils naturally favour in their own interest the exactions of the tax farmers, one of the great causes of complaint. Their only aim seems to be their own aggrandisement, and they avail of almost every affair brought before them as a means of extortion from both Mussulmans and Christians. Each member in turn is allowed by the others to carry out his own particular iniquity without opposition, and a perfect understanding to this effect prevails amongst them. The more enlightened Bosniacs, and there are many, avoid a seat in the Medjliss. If an honest Governor-General attempts to interfere with their practices, they get up petitions to the Porte, which are generally accompanied with bribes to certain influential parties to procure his recall. Most Governor-Generals, however, who know how hopeless it is to expect to retain their posts against this influence, allow them to follow their inspirations without interference. They know, moreover, it is only in this manner that they can have a chance of reimbursing the heavy expenses their appointment has cost them during the few months they can calculate on keeping their posts under the most favourable circumstances. Therefore, the Governor-General and the Medjlisses generally decide to work together on a system of mutual accommodation, and almost all the injustice and oppression of which the country complains arises from this baneful accord. This will serve as a fair description of the

Medjlisses throughout the province—from those at the capital to those in the smallest cáimakamlik.

The majority of the Bosniac Beys have declared that the reforms and concessions made to the Christians are impossible to admit or execute. The dethronement of the Sultan Abdul Aziz, both at Serajevo and Mostar, is supposed to have been effected by the Softas with a view to a return to the old system, in which the religious law is to be paramount, and under which the Christians are to be relegated to their ancient condition. At this moment a petition to the Porte is being got up by fanatical Mussulmans, that is, a majority of the people, against Haidar Effendi and almost every individual here who has any wholesome ideas in advance of the masses and in accordance with the necessities of the period. They say they will make Haidar Effendi himself take down the bells from the Christian churches, and recall the privileges announced in favour of the Christians. All this they have been emboldened to do by the accession to the Throne of a Sovereign whom Europe expects to inaugurate a very different policy.

It is, therefore, quite evident that, while these people have the power of the administration in their own hands, no reforms can be effected, and I rather imagine that when they feel relieved from the dread of invasion and insurrection, they will pick up sufficient courage to give much trouble by their conduct.

Under these circumstances, and having studied the question for many years, I am of opinion that the Porte must entirely change its system of administration in Bosnia, and that without any needless delay.

Neither Turks nor Christians possess the instruction necessary to self-Government, and I would, therefore, recommend that Bosnia and the Herzegovine be placed under a competent Governor, whose title should be something like that of Viceroy, who should be chosen with the consent of the European Powers, and whose tenure of office should be guaranteed, *quamdiu se bene gesserit*, for at least six years.

He should be solely responsible for all that takes place.

He should have the nomination of all the sub-Governors and officials throughout the country, and, for obvious reasons, the military force at his disposal should be chiefly Asiatic or Roumanian, instead of the native Bosnian regiments, who should not be employed in their own country.

I would also insist on the Christians being required to serve in the regular army; at first, perhaps, in a moderate proportion, to avoid the alarm it might occasion to the Mussulman population, but sufficient to remove the odious distinction now existing between the two creeds.

No persons of any denomination should be permitted to carry arms except when travelling.

The Viceroy should only be obliged to ask instructions from the Porte on matters of life and death.

The native Medjlisses should be entirely abolished and their functions performed by single individuals, named by, and responsible to, the Viceroy. In this way the more honest and intelligent Bosnians could be most usefully employed, and being freed from the influence of the ignorant and corrupt, would do good service. The Bosniacs are easily controlled and have a wholesome fear of, and respect for, legitimate authority, which they would obey when it was found that they had no longer the power to oppose it. My proposition looks like a return to despotism, and in fact it is so; but I am convinced that a paternal despotism is at present the only possible Government for this benighted and divided people. Until now, as I have shown, the experiment of having the administrative power almost entirely in the hands of the native Slav Mussulmans has been tried for five centuries, and has miserably failed, and will fail again if attempted. There has been no party distinctly responsible for the conduct of affairs. The Governor evades it, and the Medjlisses evade it, each endeavouring to fix it on the other, and the latter have always managed to make everything subservient to their own narrow ideas of self-interest. The result of this system of government has been the permanent discontent of almost the whole population, Mussulman and Christian.

A Viceroy certain of his position would take an interest and pride in the welfare of the country. He would have no need to perpetrate injustice for the sake of personal gain, and would, indeed, find it difficult to do so, as, having no ready-made accomplices, all questionable acts would be quickly noted, and he would find at least a large section of the public prompt to protest against them. The reports of the Consuls of the Great Powers as to his conduct should have weight, and meet with proper attention, and he would then feel the responsibility of his situation in a manner which could not fail to influence his conduct in a favourable manner. There are, no doubt, objections to the exercise of such power by a single individual, but it is impossible that his rule should

not be more beneficial and successful than that of a number of ignorant, fanatic, and corrupt native Turks, who are totally irresponsible, who have not an idea of justice and progress, and who do not even understand the necessity of it.

I need not attempt to point out in detail all that must be done to regenerate these countries. This will doubtless soon be evident to the Governor or Viceroy, who should, of course, be selected for well-known liberality of sentiment and proved administrative capacity—such an one, for example, as Midhat Pasha. His attention, however, should immediately be directed to the education of all classes of the population; not an education by priests and Mollahs, such as the Turks receive, almost entirely consisting in recitations from the Koran, but a liberal teaching, which will prepare the people to take a large part in their own government, which could be accorded when the present generation was replaced by a more enlightened one.

It may reasonably be expected, also, that the Viceroy, whose interest and duty would evidently be to change entirely the ancient state of affairs, would, in the meantime, accustom the Mussulmans to understand that they are only one section of the Sultan's subjects, entitled to no more than equal justice with all others, and that the oppression of half the population is not calculated to secure general prosperity and happiness. It would be unreasonable to expect that a state of affairs which has obtained for nearly 500 years can be changed immediately, but what I have proposed seems to me the only chance of making a beginning in the right direction. The people must be considered as children at school who will not learn, but who must be made to do so, and to teach whom an exhibition of justice and firmness, with severity towards the bad and encouragement for the good, is all that is required.

If any suggestions be considered advisable, I think it would, perhaps, be necessary to put a strong pressure on the Porte to obtain their realization, and also that the European Powers should have the right of insisting that the various primary conditions should be rigidly maintained, and that their observations from time to time should meet with proper attention; as, from my knowledge of the apathy and want of energy of the Turkish character, of its disposition never to do to-day what can be possibly put off till to-morrow, I know that it will never inaugurate and continuously carry out any new system unless it is forced to do so by a will more powerful than its own. This has been sufficiently evident by its conduct since the Crimean war, since when, under its own inspirations, it has gone from bad to worse.

I do not hesitate to predict that any attempt to continue or modify the present system will end in failure, the result of which will probably be a renewal of the Eastern question, with a general European complication, likely to end in a deluge of blood and the expulsion at no very remote period, of the Turks from Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 116.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 11.)

(No. 101.) *Buda-Pesth, July 3, 1876.*

Sir,

SINCE the breaking out of the war between Turkey and the vassal States, Servia and Montenegro, became inevitable, public opinion has been still more strongly pronounced against the Serbs and in favour of a strict neutrality, which should allow Turkey to develop, without any hindrance whatsoever, her full force against Servia.

The hope of the Hungarian nation as a whole is that Turkey will soon chastise Servia for her aggressive war, and there seems to be on the one hand a determination that Servia shall not profit by any success in war, and, on the other hand, a strong wish that Turkey shall be allowed to govern Servia as a Pashalik, and garrison Belgrade.

As regards the Servian idea of neutralizing the Danube, the "Pester Lloyd" has taken an opportunity of declaring that none of the Great Powers has any right to interfere in that manner on behalf of Servia, as the Treaty of the Riverain States respecting the free navigation of the Danube was not submitted to the Powers who took part in the Conference of Paris in 1856.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 117.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 11.)

(No. 102.) *Buda-Pesth, July 4, 1876.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the two Austrian Danube monitors, which had been fitting out at Altofen, started this afternoon for the Lower Danube in accordance with an order received early this morning. And I understand that several movements of troops towards the southern frontier, raising the force on the Servian and Bosnian frontiers to over 10,000 men, on the peace footing, are taking place, but that there is no truth in the reports of the reserve officers having been called out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 118.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 11.)

(No. 103.) *Buda-Pesth, July 4, 1876.*

Sir,

IN to-day's "Official Gazette" a Circular Instruction, dated the 30th ultimo, from M. de Tisza to the Judicial authorities, is published with reference to the subscriptions and agitation in favour of Servia.

Inasmuch as no State can allow its subjects to act in opposition to its own policy, and in a neighbouring struggle to act against a country with which the State is in peace, his Excellency says, he had already ordered that no subscriptions should be permitted except for the support of refugees, and that on each occasion, as it arose, he had caused every measure to be taken to prevent his countrymen from aiding the neighbouring conflict and from trying to widen its range. But, as new symptoms show that some Hungarian subjects are forgetful of the laws of their country, and are subscribing to a forced loan, or, in other ways, giving material help towards the continuation of a struggle against a nation with which the Empire is at peace, his Excellency orders the authorities to prevent most energetically all such proceedings, and to forthwith arrest and try all participators, abettors, and agitators in due process of law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 119.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 11.)

(No. 104. Confidential.) *Buda-Pesth, July 5, 1876.*

Sir,

WITH reference to the arrest in Neusatz this morning of M. Miletus, member of the Reichstag, and chief the Omladin, I am informed that the revelations as to his proceedings, obtained from persons previously arrested or examined, will suffice, with papers found, to obtain judgment in due course of law upon M. Miletos, and to insure the passing of a Bill of Indemnity by the Diet for thus arresting one of its members. He can be proved guilty of the specific offences of selling foreign (Servian) bonds illegally, and of using intimidation towards priests and others to promote the objects of the Omladina, and also of treasonable practices in general.

M. Miletus has been arrested at the direct instance of the Hungarian Government, and will be brought to Buda-Pesth for safe keeping and trial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 120.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 73. Political.) *Ragusa, July 4, 1876.*

My Lord,

M. YONINE, the Russian Consul-General here, and the Czar's Diplomatic Agent to the Prince of Montenegro, is to leave Ragusa this morning to join His Highness in the field. The Prince is probably at, or in the neighbourhood of, Grahowo, so that by landing at Risano, in the Bocche di Cattaro, M. Yonine will reach His Highness about midnight. Although two days ago he told me that he should remain in Montenegro as long as the war lasted, I learn from him this morning that he means to be back in four or five days, and I imagine this to be in consequence of telegraphic instructions received last night. He takes with him one of his secretaries, and he is also accompanied by one of the younger members of Prince Gortchakow's Chancellerie, who will return direct to St. Petersburgh next week.

The whole staff of the Russian Consulate here, as well as their compatriots who are in Dalmatia, either in the guise of journalists or as open adventurers, regard the success of Montenegro as a matter not admitting of doubt. They say that if 2,000 Montenegrins could, during all these months, turn the scale in favour of the insurgents, 20,000 Montenegrins will make short work of any force that the Turks can bring against them.

I believe that Montenegro has something under 18,000 men now under arms. Two-thirds of this force are said to be on the Albanian frontier, and the remainder, near Grahowo, will act with the Herzegovinians. A combat took place yesterday near Podgoritza, in which it is generally believed here that the Turks had the advantage. The Russians, however, maintain the contrary, and, as usual, it is impossible, at so early a moment, to arrive at the truth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 121.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 74. Political. Confidential.) *Ragusa, July 4, 1876.*

My Lord,

DANISH EFFENDI, the Turkish Consul-General here, asked me yesterday to telegraph to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna a suggestion that stringent measures should be taken by the Austrian Government to prevent the landing of contraband of war for Montenegro at any of the ports of the Bocche di Cattaro.

He said that the officials were all sympathisers with the enemies of the Porte, and that they would certainly wink at any such violations of neutrality.

There is a battery of mountain guns now at Corfu which is intended for Montenegro, and which he fears that the Austrian authorities will neglect to seize whenever an attempt is made to land it.

I said that I could not consent to make any such application, because although hitherto the Austrian Government had permitted at intervals the exportation of arms to Montenegro, it was not to be supposed that now that that Principality had declared war against Turkey, Austria would omit to take every precaution to ensure the execution of their duty by her local officials.

I thought it would be improper to express beforehand any doubt of the honesty of those officials in carrying out the instructions which must certainly have been given to them; but I should be ready, as soon as I had positive proof that violations of neutrality had been committed, or were in contemplation, to communicate with Her Majesty's Ambassador.

At the same time I supposed that he had taken measures to have a careful watch kept at Budua, at Cattaro, and at all the ports in the Bocche, where, oddly enough, the Turks have no Consular Representative.

Danish Effendi said that he was doing his best in that direction, but the *mauvaise volonté* of the Austrian authorities made his task a difficult one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 122.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 430.) *Foreign Office, July 11, 1876.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the message which your Excellency sent to the Grand Vizier, as reported in your despatch No. 660 of the 24th ultimo, representing to his Highness the expediency of sending a message to the Prince of Montenegro, attributing the absence of opposition to the revictualling of Nichsich to the salutary influence of the Prince, and stating that when tranquillity was restored the Porte would be willing to see what could possibly be done to meet his wishes in reference to the matters which he had at heart.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 123.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 11, 1·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 11, 1876, 10·10 A.M.*

VERY alarming rumours have been in circulation about the state of the Sultan's health, but they seem to be without foundation.

After suffering from a carbuncle, His Majesty was attacked by fever, which reduced him to a state of extreme weakness, from which he is now beginning slowly to recover.

No. 124.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 11, night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 11, 1876.*

I AM informed that the result of the meeting of the Emperors of Austria and Russia was very satisfactory. It was mutually agreed to maintain non-intervention in Eastern struggle, and when necessary to concert with the European Powers.

No. 125.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 75. Political.) *Belgrade, July 3, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that martial law has been proclaimed in Servia, and applies to the whole Principality.

Several other enactments determined upon at the secret sittings during the last session of the Skoupstchina have been also promulgated.

One of these reduces the salaries of all public civil servants and pensioners of the State during war, and another prescribes the rules according to which requisitions are to be made from communes to provide supplies for the army.

I have had some experience of countries engaged in active hostilities against an enemy, but I may say that I have nowhere seen a greater amount of sacrifice required, and more generally distributed amongst all classes, and applying equally to every inhabitant without distinction, as well as borne with so great patience and devotion to the national cause, without a single instance of grumbling, as I now see in this Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 126.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 76. Political.)

Belgrade, July 4, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying English translation of the Proclamation issued by the Prince of Servia as a sort of war-manifesto to his people.

This document is dated at the head-quarters at Deligrad on the 30th ultimo, but it was only handed out here on the morning of Sunday the 1st instant.

I have, &c

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 126.

Proclamation of the Prince of Servia at the commencement of the War, June $\frac{18}{30}$, 1876.

(Translation.)

To my beloved People,

A YEAR has also elapsed since our brothers in Bosnia and Herzegovina rose in arms to defend themselves against the excesses of an arbitrary rule and unheard-of acts of violence. Their sufferings always awoke a sympathetic echo in our breasts, and when last year we heard them breathe again, I announced to our National Assembly my determinaton to do whatever lay in our power to seek for a satisfactory mode of pacifying those Provinces, to whose fate we can never be indifferent. I said at the time that as Servia suffered most, both morally and materially, from those recurring insurrections, she has the greatest interest in putting an end, once for all, to a state of things by which they are caused.

But, from the moment that the Sublime Porte entered into negotiations with the Great Powers for the purpose of effecting the work of pacification, it became our duty to wait patiently and respectfully for the result of that attempt so zealously pursued by them in favour of our suffering brothers. But the measures adopted by the Sublime Porte having failed in inspiring confidence in the insurgents, the heroic struggle continued in the Herzegovina, and a cruel repression made itself daily felt in Bosnia.

Whilst we were looking on as mere spectators on our western frontier, a fresh insurrection broke out in the opposite direction in Bulgaria, which thus became the theatre of fearful devastation and acts of cruelty. The results of Mussulman fanaticism made themselves felt in European Turkey, and assumed such dimensions in Constantinople amongst the class teaching the Koran, that these are now exercising a paramount influence on the destinies of the Empire within the metropolis.

All these symptoms leave little hope of pacification, and the state of affairs, instead of improving, becomes every day more perplexing, leaving no hope to Servia of extricating herself from the difficult position in which she has been for nearly twelve months. Notwithstanding all these difficulties we have done nothing to embarrass the Porte or the great Powers in their attempted work of pacification; on the contrary, my Government supported numerous Bosnian refugees at a considerable sacrifice, we preserved order on our frontiers, and our army, which had been sent thither was recalled. Affairs followed their natural course with us, and we gave no occasion to the Porte to mistrust us.

In spite of this the Ottoman Government surrounded our country with troops on all sides, from the mouth of the Timok to the mouth of the Drina. The Turkish army assumed a threatening attitude towards us, and, with its connivance, barbarous hordes of Bashi-Bazouks, Circassians, and Albanians made inroads into Servia, pillaging churches and peaceful inhabitants, threatening the latter, and frequently carrying off cattle, &c.

Brothers, for nearly a year you have suffered such acts of violence on our dear soil, entire districts have been compelled to act as watchmen, and protect their lives and families against pillaging forays. All our representations to Turkish authorities and to their Government have proved fruitless, and they continued to encircle Servia with their army, thus interfering with our commerce, and by putting a stop to our growing prosperity, compelled us to adopt exceptional measures.

Thus, without having war, we endure all the miseries of war.

Owing to your patience, to your respect to law, and to your obedience to my authorities, you refrained from giving vent to your just indignation at these numerous

acts of violence. In the presence of such complications can my Government be reproached with having carried out the resolutions of our "Skoupstchina," our National Assembly, in providing proper measures of defence for the security of the country, and still this is made a subject of reproach against us by the Porte, who has herself forced all these sacrifices upon us.

Brothers, without paying attention to your wounded feelings, I listened to the advice given by the Guaranteeing Powers and continued in the path of reason and moderation, and I made you subdue your deep sentiments, but the Porte, instead of giving us credit for this forbearance, asked for an explanation on the subject of our armaments. Even then I endeavoured to make a modest and conciliatory reply, and proposed sending a special mission to Constantinople with a view to bring about a lasting peace between us and the Suzerain Imperial Government. By way of replying to this offer, the Porte decided on collecting a variety of irregulars on our frontier, savage hordes of Bashi-Bazouks, Circassians, and Albanians approached from various directions, and even barbarous Kurds from Asia were sent for, evidently for no other object than that of exposing Servia to the calamities of fire and plunder, of humbling us, and destroying our prosperity. The Porte unable to justify its own bad management to the world, is evidently seeking for some pretext to throw on us the responsibility for its own crimes, and she imagines that it would be a great boon if Servia could only be annihilated; if a country whose institutions stand out in such striking contrast to those of the neighbouring Turkish Provinces could be made to disappear from the list of self-governing lands.

Brothers, were we to continue, after all this, in an attitude of forbearance, our moderation would be taxed as weakness, our silence considered as cowardice unworthy of the descendants of Doushan and of Milosh. Though a war between the Porte and the Servian people has become inevitable, I have, however, made representations at Constantinople, pointing out certain measures likely to pacify the disturbed provinces, and to extricate Servia from the perilous position in which she finds herself through no fault of her own. I demanded that the Turkish troops and irregular hordes should be withdrawn, and I announced that the Servian army was about to enter the disturbed provinces in self-defence, in the name of the humane and brotherly sentiments which animate us towards our suffering brothers, to bring them peace and order and reorganise them on a basis of justice and equality without distinction of creeds. It behoves the Porte to say only one decisive word, and thus put an end to the effusion of blood.

Servian soldiers, we go into this war, not with any feelings of hatred or revenge, but merely impelled by a strong desire to restore peace amongst our brothers. Proud as you ought to be of the mission of freedom which has been assigned you by Providence in this portion of Eastern Europe go forward, soldiers, hopefully and with confidence, using your arms only against those who oppose you. In crossing the frontier, do not forget that we shall adhere to the principle of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, unless the opposition of the Imperial army should make our sacred cause depend on the fate of battles. Remember likewise that the provinces whither you are going are inhabited by brothers of the same race, ready to receive you as deliverers; some there are among them who have been estranged from us by difference of creed, but they still continue our brothers by race and language. Should any of these offer resistance, you must have recourse to arms; to those, however, as also to any of your enemies who are peacefully disposed, you must give protection for their lives, their families, their property, and their worship. This is my firm determination as well as your sacred duty, and by this means only can you gain the sympathy of the civilized world, and convince it that you deserve a better place among nations than the one which has hitherto been assigned you. Ours is a national movement, and there ought to be no room in it either for religious fanaticism or for social animosities; we bear with us the spirit of order, justice, and security; not that of destruction, incendiarism, or devastation. Strangers are to be treated by you with that spirit of hospitality which is innate in Slavs. Show respect to the frontiers of the neighbouring kingdom, and avoid every occasion of offence to the Imperial and Royal Government, which is entitled to our special gratitude for the generous assistance given to the Bosnians and Herzegovinians who took refuge on its soil.

Full of confidence in your courage and patriotic feelings, I go with you and as your leader; with us will go our brave countrymen, the Montenegrins, with my chivalrous brother, Prince Nicholas, at their head; we shall also have on our side the heroic sons of the Herzegovina and those of Bosnia, who have suffered centuries of cruel oppression. The laborious Bulgarians are only waiting for us; and the love of independence of the proud Greeks, the descendants of Themistocles and of Bozaris, will not allow them to remain long inactive.

Forward, therefore, my brave soldiers.

In the name of Almighty God, the righteous Father of all people, for justice, liberty, and progress.

(Signed m. p.) MILAN M. OBRENOVITCH IV.

No. 127.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 77. Political.) *Belgrade, July 4, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE official bulletins of the Servian military commanders which have been published here contain the following items of intelligence.

The Drina has been crossed by the division under General Ranko Olympitch, and he advanced towards Belina, meeting with great enthusiasm on the part of the inhabitants, but having had some severe fighting on the way.

One of the columns of General Chernaieff proceeded from Alexinatz towards Nisch, and drove the Turks from two positions under Colonel Milutin, whilst one detachment, under Captain Bortchevitch, stormed Topolnitza, a fortified post.

Another column, under General Chernaieff himself, had reached Ak Palantia, and on their way took—after a fight of three hours' duration—the commanding position of Babina-Glava, beyond Nisch, from which the Turks had been compelled to retire, leaving horses and baggage behind them.

The losses in these encounters are not stated, but must have been considerable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 128.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 514. Confidential.) *Paris, July 11, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAD this morning some conversation with the Duc Decazes on the Eastern question.

The Duke expressed satisfaction with the result of the interview between the Emperors of Austria and Russia at Reichstadt. It appeared, he said, to have put an end to all present apprehension as to a disagreement between those two Empires; and it was, he thought, in the possibility of such a disagreement that the great danger of the state of things produced by the Servian war lay for him. Then the agreement come to seemed to him to be the best that could have been devised with a view to the maintenance of peace. It consisted, he understood, in a determination that the Imperial Governments should abstain from all intervention at present, and, if hereafter the progress of events should render a change of this determination necessary, that then the measures to be taken should be settled in concert by all the great Christian Powers.

The Duke proceeded to observe that, at all events, one thing had been gained by the recent diplomatic campaign. Separate negotiations between the three Empires were no longer talked of, and the union between all the six Powers had been re-established.

There was, the Duc Decazes thought, no reason to doubt that the Russian Government had been sincerely desirous of restraining the Princes of Servia and Montenegro, and that it disapproved the rash proceedings of Prince Milan. It had also, he said, struck him that the Prince of Montenegro, over whom Russia was supposed to have more influence than she had over the Prince of Servia, did not appear near so eager to advance. Prince Nikita's declaration of war, of which the Duke had, he said, just received a copy from Ragusa, bore no date, and left the number of days after which hostilities were to begin in blank.

He did not see that the Montenegrin troops had advanced beyond the districts at the foot of the mountains, which were called the "Cnateris Monténégrins," of which the inhabitants were, in fact, of the Montenegrin race, and which had never been thoroughly subjugated by Turkey. All this betokened, in the Duke's opinion, a certain degree of lukewarmness on the part of Montenegro, and confirmed him in the belief that Prince Nikita received no encouragement from Russia.

The general impression made upon the Duc Decazes' mind by the confused and contradictory telegrams which came in from various quarters was, he told me, that, so far, success in the military operations had been on the side of the Turks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 129.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 515. Secret.) *Paris, July 11, 1876.*

My Lord,

IN the course of the conversation, of which a Report is given in my immediately-preceding despatch No. 514 of to-day, the Duke Decazes said that he had been confirmed in the opinion that the Turks were getting the best of it in the contest with Servia by looking over the private telegrams which passed through the Paris Office. In doing this he had observed that telegrams bearing the same signatures were despatched to the same persons, on the same day, both from Belgrade and from Semlin. Those sent from Belgrade gave accounts of Servian successes; but those sent from Semlin told a very different story. It could only be supposed that fearful of incurring displeasure at Belgrade, the senders, after dispatching the favourable accounts through the Servian Office, to disarm suspicion, crossed the river, and communicated the truth to their correspondents, from the Austrian Office at Semlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 130.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 517.) *Paris July 11, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes told me this morning that M. Callimaki Catargi, the Roumanian Agent here, had come to him, and after giving him an account of the contents of a long Memoir which he had brought with him, proposed to leave it with him.

The Memoir appeared (the Duc Decazes said) to contain a statement of grievances alleged by Roumania against the Porte, and of claims put forward by that country. He had, however, observed to M. Catargi, that all the pretensions advanced by Roumania would involve distinct infractions of the Treaties under which the Principalities were constituted; and that if they were submitted to him in writing, he should simply be obliged to remind the Roumanian Government of the conditions of its existence, and of the Treaties under which alone it was recognized and guaranteed by the Powers of Europe. He had added that the present was a particularly inopportune moment for Roumania to raise difficulties and try to increase the unhappy complications which were already doing so much harm in the East. He had represented that by taking this line of conduct Roumania would forfeit the claim to the consideration of the Powers of Europe which she derived from the correct and prudent attitude which she had hitherto maintained. He had, therefore, advised M. Catargi to take the Memoir away with him; and, finally, had told him that he might report to his Government that, having sounded the French Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject, he had found that the moment was an unfavourable one for presenting it.

The Duke said to me, in conclusion, that upon this understanding M. Catargi had put the Memoir back into his pocket, and had gone away with it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 131.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, July 12.)

Ems, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Mai, 1876.

Mon cher Comte,

J'AI reçu hier soir votre lettre du $\frac{11}{23}$ et $\frac{12}{24}$ Mai, expédiée par un courrier Anglais qui l'a mise à la poste à Cologne.

J'y réponds simplement par la poste.

Je ne vois aucune raison de m'écarter de la voie ordinaire n'ayant absolument rien à cacher ni quant à nos opinions, ni quant à notre action.

Ce que je vous dis ci-dessus, je l'aurais répété de vive voix à tout Ministre Anglais que j'aurais eu l'honneur d'entretenir.

Quelles sont vis-à-vis de la Porte nos positions respectives?

Celle de l'Angleterre d'après les déclarations même qui vous ont été faites et celles des cinq Grandes Puissances d'après la marche dont elles sont convenues?

On vous dit à Londres que le Sultan est sur le lit de mort, et que nous ne sommes que des médecins au chevet d'un agonisant. On n'ajoute pas que pour sauver cet agonisant, le médecin Anglais proposerait d'autres remèdes que nous.

On dit seulement qu'on n'est pas le seul médecin et qu'on laisse aux autres le soin d'assister le patient dans son agonie.

Nous disons ainsi que les Puissances qui sont convenues de la même marche, nous disons que le pouvoir et l'autorité du Sultan ne peuvent se consolider, ni même se maintenir en Europe, que s'il prend pour base une amélioration sérieuse, non fictive, du bien-être de ses sujets Chrétiens.

Nous nous déclarons prêts à accepter sous ce rapport les efforts qu'il ferait et n'avons jusqu'ici prononcé aucune parole qui impliquerait une modification du *statu quo* territorial.

En posant l'une à côté de l'autre ces deux attitudes on peut hardiment réserver au jugement de tout esprit impartial et même à celui que pourrait le Parlement Anglais si la question lui était soumise dans tous ses détails, de décider quelle est celle qui répond avec plus de scrupule aux devoirs de l'humanité et de la civilisation, et qui contribuerait le mieux au maintien de l'Empire Ottoman.

Vous connaissez les bouleversements amenés dans le personnel du Ministère Turc par les attroupements des Softas, agents ou avant-garde de la jeune Turquie. Leurs premiers succès les enhardiront à demander davantage et alors le Gouvernement ne se trouverait plus au palais, mais dans la rue.

Ce mouvement s'est produit en mai dernier, il a amené une Constitution libérale, qui en bouleversant le pouvoir établi, devait l'amener à une nouvelle Constitutionnelle.

MM. les Ministres Anglais ont dit dans le Parlement qu'ils ne pouvaient pas entrer dans les détails du mémoire de Berlin, parce qu'il n'avait pas encore été remis à la Porte.

Cependant M. Maccabruni en a connaissance; je dois de croire le supposer puisque les objections que Rachid Pacha a faites au Général Ignatiev, d'après les communications de l'Ambassadeur de Turquie à Londres, sont exactement les mêmes que celles qui vous ont été faites par le Ministère Britannique.

D'après de l'Empereur je ne vous ai pas chargé de participer aux offres de représentations d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, et d'Allemagne pour ramener le Cabinet Britannique à une appréciation moins sévère de la question soumise à Berlin.

Ces mesures n'exigeaient aucun retard inutile pour les rendre palpables. Le résultat a prouvé que notre désir de nous abstenir dans la mesure compatible avec l'intérêt de l'Empire était exact.

Enfin, et c'est une question que j'adresse le front haut, depuis vingt-un ans que Sa Majesté l'Empereur est monté sur le trône y a-t-il une seule action, une seule démarche de sa part qui puisse servir d'indice à une arrière pensée quelconque? Vingt-un ans, c'est presqu'un quart de siècle, et je défie qui que ce soit de prouver que dans ce laps de temps l'attitude et l'action de Sa Majesté aient été autrement que transparentes de vérité comme le cristal.

J'ose réclamer la même conclusion pour la marche de son Cabinet qui a constamment pris à tâche d'être un reflet fidèle de la pensée du Souverain. Je défie encore de trouver un fait que prouverait le contraire.

Dès lors, si dans la politique de nos jours, on s'inspirait d'idées surannées, ne risquerait-on pas de faire des calculs fondés sur une base imaginaire et qui devraient être faux?

Je ne suis pas romanesque par caractère, mon cher Comte, et je ne veux pas donner dans le sentiment. Je n'affirmerai donc pas seulement que l'Empereur est vrai et franc, parce que c'est sa nature, mais j'ajouterai qu'il l'est parceque le sentiment de sa puissance lui fait envisager tout artifice comme un moyen indigne de sa dignité.

Le Cabinet Anglais pensera d'après ce qu'il croit dans son intérêt [illegible] la marche que nous avons adoptée jusqu'ici. Tout en ne diminuant pas [illegible] dissentiment actuel et notre désir de nous retrouver dans des relations cordiales avec le

Gouvernement Britannique, nous ne saurions sacrifier nos convictions à des préventions dont nous ne pouvons pas admettre la justesse.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

No. 132.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July 12.)

Constantinople, le 11 Juillet, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

LE Gouvernement Moldo-Valaque nous a demandé la neutralisation de la partie du Danube comprise entre Nigotine et "Verciorova" (?) afin d'épargner au pays les difficultés d'une situation périlleuse. Le Gouvernement Impérial, pour donner une nouvelle preuve de ses sentiments de bienveillance envers le Gouvernement Princier, a accédé à cette demande; par conséquent notre flotte du Danube, composée d'une trentaine de navires blindés et autres, a reçu l'ordre de ne pas dépasser l'embouchure de Timok, situé au-dessus de Widin. De son côté, le Gouvernement Princier prend l'engagement d'empêcher tout transport d'armes, de munitions de guerre, de volontaires et autres, et donne l'assurance qu'Adakale ne serait nullement ni menacé par les Serbes et qu'il fournira toutes les facilités pour le ravitaillement de cette place.

J'aurai l'honneur de vous envoyer par la poste les copies des deux notes de l'Agent des Principautés ainsi que celle de notre réponse.

No. 133.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 683.)

Foreign Office, July 12, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 483 of the 30th ultimo, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from the Due Decazes to the Marquis d'Harcourt, which has been communicated to me by the latter on the subject of the desire expressed by the Moldo Wallachian Government for the neutrality of the Danube in the war which is now going on between Turkey and Servia.

Your Excellency will perceive from the copies of the telegrams sent and to Mr. St. John, herewith annexed, what are the instructions which have been sent to Sir H. Elliot on this subject; and you will have further gathered from my despatch No. 315 of the 4th instant to Sir A. Buchanan, of which a copy is inclosed in my despatch No. 667 of the 6th instant, what are the views of Her Majesty's Government on this matter, and that any appropriations of Turkish vessels of war proceeding up the Danube with a view to warlike operations are unfounded, as it appears probable that no vessel would be able to do so from the insufficient draught of water.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 134.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 684.)

Foreign Office, July 12, 1876.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador spoke to me to-day of the proposal recently made by the Russian Government for the pacification of the insurgent districts in Turkey, by granting them autonomy under the suzerainty of the Porte.

It appears that Prince Gortchakow's plan has also been submitted to the French Government; and the Due Decazes was desirous of learning the view taken of it by Her Majesty's Government.

I gave the Marquis d'Harcourt, confidentially, a copy of my note to Count Schouvaloff of the 29th ultimo, containing the reply of Her Majesty's Government to this proposal; and your Excellency is aware that I have communicated the contents to the Due Decazes.

[illegible] "Nouvel Orsova."

A copy of the note was forwarded to your Excellency in my despatch No. 656 of the 30th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 135.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12.)

Therapia, July 11, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 5th instant:—

State of the Turkish revenue is very bad, and it is coming in unsatisfactorily. All available resources are devoted to the military operations, but they are insufficient.

Gold and silver plate from the palace is being coined, and patriotic offerings are invited.

Forced paper currency is considered almost inevitable, but even if this were to give temporary relief the effect would be very disastrous.

I forwarded to your Lordship on Friday the most complete information I could obtain upon the military forces.

The Turks continue to repeat that they have sufficient, but as they still remain on the defensive, confidence in these assertions is beginning to be shaken.

Great distrust is also felt in the capacity of the Generals.

No. 136.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12.)

Therapia, July 11, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Roumanian demands reported in Mr. St. John's despatch of 1st instant would not be certainly listened to by the Porte, especially if accompanied by such a menace as that contained in the despatch to the Roumanian Agents.

Roumanian Government should, if possible, be prevented from formally bringing forward demands, some of which are contrary to provisions in international Treaties, and which could not at the present moment be entertained by the Porte.

No. 137.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office July 12, 1876, 4·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

A DESPATCH is on its way to you respecting a question asked by the Duke of Argyll in the House of Lords on the 26th ultimo, as to alleged Turkish atrocities in Bulgaria, committed partly by regular troops, and partly by Bashi-Bazouks.

Report such information as you can obtain on the subject.

The statement referred to by the Duke appeared in the "Daily News" of June 23.

No. 138.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12, at night.)

Serajevo, July 12, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

SINCE my last telegram the line to Vishegrad has been cut.

It is now repaired, and both official and (indirect [*sic*]) information announce the continued defeat of the Servians in every direction.

No. 139.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12, at night.)*

Vienna, July 12, 1876, 11·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT ZICHY was instructed yesterday to inform the Porte that the Gulf of Klek will be closed hereafter, and that orders have been also given to stop at Cattaro arms and warlike stores destined for Montenegro.

Baron Orczy, to whom I have spoken on the subject, said that measure can cause little or no prejudice to Turkey, as the country around Klek is already occupied by the Herzegovinians.

No. 140.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 439.)

Foreign Office, July 13, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 428 of the 28th ultimo, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, additional extracts from the "Daily News" of the 8th and 10th instant, reporting the occurrence of further atrocities in Bulgaria and elsewhere, and I have to inform your Excellency that this matter has been again under discussion in both Houses of Parliament.

It is stated that in the district of Philippopolis alone 25,000 innocent lives have been taken, whilst by others the number is fixed at about 12,000.

It is reported that upwards of sixty villages have been pillaged and burnt, and the inhabitants reduced to beggary and starvation. Large numbers of Bulgarian girls and children are said to have been sold publicly as slaves at Philippopolis and elsewhere, and numbers of Bulgarians to have been undergoing torture in prison.

In one instance, where the fugitives fled for protection to a convent near Novo Selo, 40 girls were seized, violated, and subsequently burnt alive in a straw-loft.

Similar atrocities are reported to have occurred at Gabrova and other places with the connivance, in many instances, of the Turkish authorities.

I have to instruct your Excellency to report to me how far reliance is to be placed in these statements.

Your Excellency has already on different occasions remonstrated with the Porte against the employment of Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks; to whom many acts of cruelty have been ascribed, and Her Majesty's Government desire that you should, whenever you have reason to believe it necessary, urgently impress upon the Porte to see that its irregular forces are kept from committing atrocities which discredit the Ottoman cause.

Her Majesty's Government trust that the reports which have been circulated, and to which I have referred in this despatch, will prove to be unfounded. In a conflict such as is now taking place in European Turkey it is unhappily almost inevitable that acts of unnecessary violence and bloodshed should at times occur, and should give rise to reprisals on the other side. But the Porte will not deny that it is the duty of a civilized Government to use its utmost endeavours for the repression of such barbarities on the part of its own forces. The emergency of the moment, or the nature of the country, may render the employment of irregular troops a matter of necessity; but, unless these are kept under proper control, it is probable that the indignation which will be roused throughout Europe by the accounts of cruelties and outrages, and the sympathy felt for the inhabitants of the oppressed districts, may go far to counterbalance any material successes which the use of such undisciplined levies may secure.

Her Majesty's Government feel, therefore, that they are acting in the interests of Turkey herself, no less than in those of humanity, in warning the Porte against the toleration of acts committed by its troops which would arouse the reprobation of the civilized world.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Rome, Constantinople, and St. Petersburgh.

Inclosure 1 in No. 534.

Extract from the "Daily News" of July 8, 1876.

THE MOSLEM ATROCITIES IN BULGARIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 30, 1876.

THE particulars I furnished a short time since on the atrocities of the Turkish irregular troops in Bulgaria have since been too abundantly confirmed. Every mail which has been allowed to arrive from the portion of Bulgaria lying to the north of Philippopolis has brought word of additional atrocities or fresh details of those already reported. In my previous letter I took pains to give trustworthy information, and to state as rumours merely what I had no sufficiently good authority for stating as facts. Some of those rumours have since proved to be true. I am not aware of one that has been disproved. I propose in this letter to adduce additional details with the view of showing what a body of savages have been let loose upon the peaceful, well-to-do Bulgarians. I have before me a large mass of evidence, in the accuracy of which I have no reason to disbelieve; but it is evident that it is impossible to make the names of the witnesses public. Many of them belong to the disturbed district, or have business or other connections with it. Others are in Turkish employ, and are only urged to an exposure of what they have seen by the indignation common to all men who have made the least advance towards civilization in presence of the brutalities to which the policy of the late Hussein Avni in employing Bashi-Bazouks and letting loose the Circassian savages has given rise.

At the very time that the tables of many newspaper offices in Constantinople have been filled with correspondence which they dare not publish, detailing the horrors of the carnival of brutality against which even some of the decent Turks in the neighbourhood made protest, the Government here was solemnly denying that it knew anything of the matter or had any information thereon. Our own Ambassador, through one of his dragomans, was thus informed, and was told that as there was no information to the effect indicated, the statements could not be true. Had the Government wished to know the facts—though, of course, it is childishly absurd to suppose that they did not know them—they could have sent a Commission to Philippopolis in two days. Instead of adopting this course they allowed their subordinates to intercept every letter they could lay hands on, and take every means they could devise to prevent information reaching the capital. Some of the facts found their way into the local journals. It would have looked ill to have suppressed these journals for the publication of facts which, in the face of Europe, they were prepared to vouch for, and therefore these newspapers were suspended on other pretexts. Thus the "Courrier d'Orient" was suspended ostensibly for an attack on the character of the late War Minister. The real ground was that it had published a statement of horrors (which have since been confirmed) from a correspondent who had come from Novo Selo. I mentioned this incident in my previous letter on the subject of the Bulgarian atrocities, but I spoke of it then only as a rumour. I have since seen confirmation of its truth in two letters from the neighbourhood, and while the incident has been much talked of in the capital, no one has ever had any reason to suspect that it is an invention or an exaggeration. Of course if the Government were asked it would state that it had no information on the subject, and that therefore the statements could not be true. But anybody who has had the slightest experience of Turkish Ministers knows that this is exactly what they would say if they knew the statements to be true in every particular.

The village of Novo Selo was attacked by Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians. More than 400 women and children took to flight, and, worn out with fatigue, huddled themselves together in the open fields near Kuloffer. They sent to the headmen of the latter village for food. After some negotiations to obtain the permission of the neighbouring Mussulmans, they received permission to take refuge in the Convent of the Holy Trinity. During the negotiations a band of 200 men burst in upon the poor wretches, took from them everything of value which the Circassian troops had left them, and carried off forty of the young women. These men remained to their village with their captives were met by the Turkish women, who objected to receive any slaves. They were thereupon driven to a neighbouring farm, and, after a scene which the "Courrier" describes, but an English paper dare not, they were shut up in a straw-lott and burnt. Other particulars are given by the "Courrier," but these are enough. This horrible statement, I repeat,

was not contradicted here by the Government, nor was the newspaper suppressed professedly because of its publication. Had it been, and the accuracy of the statements challenged, the truth would have been made manifest.

Great numbers of Bulgarian children have been captured by the Circassians, and have been sold, or are now on sale as slaves. So large is the stock on hand, that I am informed from a good source, that young girls may be bought for 3 or 4 liras each at Philippopolis. I have seen an official Report from a Consular Agent in the district, who has apparently no sympathy whatever with the insurgents, in which the estimate of those killed—non-combatants, that is—is fixed at 12,000, including men, women, and children. He adds, that the country is full of armed marauders, who compel all the wealthy Christians to pay heavy penalties, under the threat of being denounced as insurgents. The men and women are afraid to go to the fields, and the harvest is thus being lost. The great game, says another official's account, which is being played, is to arrest every one who is in decent circumstances. Upwards of 2,000 have in his neighbourhood been arrested; and the explanation he gives of the arrests is that the officials of every kind are wringing every piastre of their property from them under pretence of not charging them with being concerned in the insurrection.

I propose, instead of summarizing the evidence before me, to lay some of it before your readers. The following is an extract of a letter from Philippopolis, dated 22nd June. It is written by a man respected for his honesty, his high character, and his ability:—

It is difficult as yet to obtain positive estimates on the particulars of the havoc wrought by the Bashi-Bazouks in the district of Philippopolis. The insecurity of the roads is so great, that no Christian ventures to visit the destroyed towns and villages in order to ascertain by personal inspection the extent of the devastation. For this reason, while some estimate the loss of innocent life at 25,000 men, women, and children, others believe it does not rise above the figure of 12,000. It is not only in the villages which defended themselves against the plunderous attacks of the Bashi-Bazouks that no distinction was made of guilt, sex, or age; in the first weeks of the revolt, all Bulgarians found on the highways in the cazas of Philippopolis and Tatar-Bazardjik were mercilessly massacred. As regards the loss of property, it is simply incalculable. Countless are the families which have been plundered of everything they possessed. The system followed by the Bashi-Bazouks has been this:—As soon as they perceived, on their way to the insurgent district, a Bulgarian village, they deputed emissaries to demand the arms of the inhabitants. If the demand was agreed to, as was generally the case, the arms were collected, the houses plundered, and the inhabitants tortured for money; if not—if the least sign of resistance was shown, the village was attacked, taken by assault, the inhabitants massacred or dispersed, and the houses pillaged and burnt. Some sixty large and small villages were burnt in this way; about 4,000 families have been left homeless and penniless to beg in the towns, to feed upon grass in the mountains, or to starve. While life and property suffered in this terrible way, honour fared no better. Many are the young women who have been carried off from the destroyed villages—in some cases for a few days only, in others, perhaps, for ever—to form part of their captors' harems. A good many children have been also carried off, to be converted to Mohammedanism, and kept as drudges. All these horrors, all these wanton massacres and outrages, were committed in many cases under the very eyes of the civil and military authorities.

There is this thing besides to be noticed in connection with them, that no plea of reprisals can be put forward in their favour. It is true that at Avrat-alan and Yeni-keui some sixty Turks were murdered by the insurgents; but no case has been proved of a Turkish woman or child having been put to death by the Bulgarians, at least in the district of Philippopolis; while, as regards the general conduct of the insurgents towards Europeans, and even Turks who submitted to give up their arms to them, the European officials of Baron Hirsch's "établissement forestier" at Bellova speak of the Bulgarian disturbers of order in terms which contrast very strongly with the language of the railway officials with respect to the behaviour of the Turkish restorers of peace—the Bashi-Bazouks. Want of discipline is not alone sufficient to explain the frightful excesses of these irregulars. It is now positively ascertained that both political and religious authorities have been guilty of the most inconsiderate appeals to the worst passions of the Turkish populace. The highest officials in Philippopolis have been heard to declare that all Christians were revolutionaries, and ought as such to be hunted down and massacred, as the Padishah did not want any more to have Ghiaours for subjects. There is also a story current of "fumans" preaching to all those who engaged in the holy war against the Ghiaours that every piece of Christian property pillered was a legitimate acquisition for a faithful, and that every Moslem who killed one priest and thirty-three Christians was certain of a place in Paradise. I give this report on the authority of the Vice-Consuls in

Philippopolis. As regards the other assertions in the concluding paragraph, incredible as they appear, they are all facts, and I am even prepared to give the names of the officials who have been guilty of such enormous excesses of language. Doctrines like these, and the impunity shown to offenders by the Central Government, have excited the fanaticism of the ignorant Mussulman masses to such a point that peace is henceforward impossible in Turkey unless Europe takes prompt steps to put an end to a state of things which has become unbearable.

Here is an extract from a letter from Philippopolis, dated June 9, telling much the same tale. He, too, like the previous writer, is speaking as an eye-witness:—

The devastation of the province of Philippopolis is still going on. The flames which have encircled us since the breaking out of these troubles are assuming still greater proportions. Every Bulgarian feels that his life is in peril, and awaits his death from minute to minute. The Turks are extremely enraged, and the massacres continue. Thousands of innocent people are waiting a bitter death in the prisons. The Bulgarians seized in the towns and villages by the troops and Bashi-Bazouks, or by individual Turks, whether guilty or not, are being brought half dead, and subjected to indescribable tortures and sufferings under which many of them are dying. The prisons, warehouses, baths, and Khans (inns) of the city are full of these unfortunate people. On the 3rd instant 450 prisoners were brought here from Tatar-Bazardjik. Their arrival caused such a horrible scene as to throw the whole city into consternation. These prisoners had been arrested in different parts of the district of Tatar-Bazardjik, and sent to Philippopolis to undergo their trial for their complicity in the recent troubles. They were bound with chains, handcuffs, and ropes, and were escorted by 200 soldiers. The populace, prompted some by compassion and others by curiosity or fanaticism, came out to see their entry into the city. As the sad procession approached cries and groans were heard from a long distance off. When they reached the bridge near the Government House I witnessed a most horrible spectacle. A mob of Turks armed, some with stones and others with clubs, fell upon and began to beat and maim the poor unmanned prisoners. At the head of the procession of prisoners was a number of priests and teachers, all heavily ironed. Then came four waggons filled with dead and wounded. Almost all the prisoners were peasants.

On the morning of the 4th instant sixteen dead were carried out of the prison, and the next night six more. Complete anarchy reigns throughout the towns and villages of this province. The Governor seems to be the only one who has at heart the true interests of the Government, and he is unable to restrain the fanaticism of the Turks. The idea is current here among the Turks either to annihilate or to materially weaken the Bulgarian element, so that they may rid themselves of every fear of European intervention. In the space of twenty days more than 100 villages have been burned in the province of Philippopolis and of Tatar-Bazardjik. Many other villages have been partly burned, pillaged, and many of their inhabitants massacred. Others of the inhabitants are wandering about begging, or are awaiting a miserable death in the dungeons. It is quite true that some troops have been despatched to guard the people from the Bashi-Bazouks, but unfortunately many of those sent to restore order are improving the opportunity for plundering on their own account. The commander of the troops comes to a village where the peasants have assembled from fear of the Bashi-Bazouks, and he at once begins to bombard their church and their school-house under pretext that they are insurgents. Sometimes he contents himself with disarming them simply, and then passes on, leaving them to the mercies of a band of Bashi-Bazouks, always sure to be following pretty close behind the troops. Last of all, then, come the Turkish neighbours, who gather around like vultures. Knowing that Ivan and Stoyan, it may be, were reported to have money, they hunt them up and demand money. In vain are they told that the other spoilers have taken everything; iron polters are heated red-hot and poor Ivan and Stoyan put to torture.

At last these neighbours, finding nothing else, strip the last shirt from the backs of the unfortunate peasants, and, having satisfied their brutal lusts, go back to their villages without any molestation from any one. Hafiz Pasha went to the town of Tatarpazardjitch (Yeni-Keuy) and burned the churches and schools and the houses of all the wealthier people, and thus plundered everything. Not content with that, he put to death every one who had any property, lest they might be able to bring accusation against him. One such unfortunate man was named Laudjo. From him the Pasha extorted 1,000 liras, and then put him to death. He then put Laudjo's wife to torture, and obtained from her 800 liras as a ransom for her life, when she was snatched away by the troops, perhaps with the hope of getting more money from her, and no one knows what became of her. But the services of his Excellency in the cause of public order were not limited to this. He let loose his troops upon the inhabitants, and after dishonouring the women and maidens of the place, attacked the girls and boys of ten to twelve years of age, many of whom died in their brutal hands. . . . Orders have been given by the Government that the peasants collected here whose houses have been burned should be temporarily lodged in houses and magazines along the river Maritza, and men were sent to watch over and guard them. These unfortunate persons, who have lost their all, unable to support life with the half piastre (a penny) per day allowed them by the Government, found some kind-hearted persons to go round and beg food for them. The officer, however, appointed as overseer, seems to have some kind of private instructions to cause their death, for he drives away every one who wishes to give food to the starving sufferers. "Go away, let them starve," says he. When this is reported to the chief authorities of course it is denied and pronounced a lie. . . . The brutal violations of these poor people by their guardians at night, as also their treatment of young boys, is too horrible for description. Suffice it to say, that when the Government authorities are appealed to they excuse themselves that they have no time to attend to such trifling affairs.

The following extract of a letter just received from Philippopolis fully confirms the accounts given by other parties of the treatment of the unfortunate prisoners in that city. It must be borne in mind that these are not insurgents, but simply persons suspected of complicity with the insurgents. The letter is from a person of the highest respectability, and in every way worthy of confidence. It is dated June 20:—

The arrests here are assuming daily greater dimensions. The officers and directors of the two Financial (Savings) Associations remain in prison without trial. Although the rules and accounts of these associations have been published, and have been presented to the Government in Constantinople for approval, yet the authorities here are not satisfied with arresting simply the directors, but are proceeding also to arrest all the depositors, among whom are found many of our most respectable, quiet, and industrious citizens. Priests are being brought in every day from the villages. The horrors and barbarities in the prisons still continue. The people of the town are not permitted to carry bread or water even to their own relatives shut up in loathsome dungeons. Many are dying for want of food and air. Some of our most wealthy citizens are confined in cells along with Turkish murderers, and in addition to other tortures suffer from the Asiatic lust of their companions. There are women from Koprivtchitza and other places shut up in warehouses and suffering from want of food. Besides this the Turks come to them, and, selecting the fairest, violate them before the eyes of their mothers. The wretched women scream for help, but no one dares to go near. This same thing is going on at the present time on a larger scale in the towns and villages of this district.

Extract from letter dated Philippopolis, June 9, 1876:—

"When the news reached us of the accession of His Imperial Majesty Sultan Murad V, all rejoiced in the hope that orders would at once be given for the better treatment of the accused now imprisoned in this city, and for the establishment of peace and protection in the province; but matters have since then grown worse instead of better. The members of the Commercial Association, "the Bee," Messrs. Peef, Vulkoff, Danoff, and many others, are still in prison, without having been once brought before the Commission for interrogation. Prisoners are arriving every day from Bazardjik and other towns. They are brought in chains, and mercilessly beaten upon the road. When they arrive here, on entering the Turkish quarter of the city, Turks arrange themselves on both sides of the streets, with knives, clubs, and stones, and attack them, reviling them with all manner of abuse. . . . . The villages which have escaped burning have been pillaged by the Bashi-Bazouks, consisting of wild Turks and savage Circassians. The village of Javorozo has been repeatedly visited. The people of Ozu Toprak have complained that after having been plundered by the Bashi-Bazouks of their cattle and all their other property, they are still visited and maltreated by their Turkish neighbours. In the large town of Karlovo the houses of about 100 of the principal men have been pillaged, and their wives and daughters ravished.

The following is from Sliven, dated May 29:—

In the market the soldiers attacked Detcho, the tailor, while the Redifs fired upon him and killed him. The same band of soldiers killed with their daggers a boy 16 years old, and mortally wounded Thodorski Ahmakoff. Four men are lying in bed badly wounded, but those who are slightly wounded are without number. The Governor in this case showed a great deal of prudence and energy. The moment he was informed of these troubles he hastened to the place, ordered that the corpses of the two killed should be taken away, pacified the people, accompanied himself some of the wealthier people to their houses, while others he sent accompanied by his men, and commanded the Bashi-Bazouks to lay down their arms. In spite of all these orders, however, the Bashi-Bazouks did not lay down their arms, and continued to walk about armed, so that the

people, fearing lest their property should be sacked, did not open their shops. The Governor observing this ordered on the 13th (25th) the public criers to announce to the people to open their shops, but they opened only one door of their shops being still afraid of the lawlessness of the Bashi-Bazouks. A short time after the Bashi-Bazouks and the troops attacked the butchers' and bakers' shops, plundering all the meat, bread, and money they found, so that the shops were again closed. The Governor again ordered the Bashi-Bazouks to lay down their arms, and the Turkish Muhtars and Imams to tell the Turks to attend to their business. Moreover he appointed guards of soldiers to go around the city, and by these precautions tranquillity was established again. In the villages, however, the Bashi-Bazouks go about freely with their arms and commit various outrages, so that no one dares to go out of the city.

The following is an extract from a letter from Sliven, dated May 24 (o. s.):—

"... This is what is now happening outside our city. The great multitude of Bashi-Bazouks, composed of Turks, Circassians, and gipsies, who flocked here at the arrival of his Excellency Shevket Pasha, are committing various depredations in the villages, carrying off sheep, cattle, horses, furniture, and robbing the people of their money. Some of the poor villagers, in order to defend themselves and their property, had the courage to resist the plunderers; but this brought on their heads worse and more bitter calamities. The accusations of the extortioners succeeded in making Sherket Pasha suspect the peasants as insurgents. Among the number of these unfortunate peasants are the inhabitants of Boyadjik (a village in our province eight hours' distant from Sliven), those of Bash-Tepeh, (a village in the province of Eni-Zaghra, five hours' distant on the south of that city), and of six other Bulgarian villages near there. These innocent peasants having thus been represented to Shevket Pasha, he ordered on the 16th (28th) instant the Caimakam of Yamboli to go and investigate the matter. The Turks say that he found the peasants under arms, and that they refused to let him come into their village, stating that they had no confidence in him, and that they would surrender their arms only to the regular troops. On his return to Yamboli, the Caimakam during the night telegraphed to Shevket Pasha, representing the peasants as insurgents, and also that the inhabitants of many other villages had collected in Boyadjik. At midnight Shevket Pasha started from here with regular troops and Bashi-Bazouks, and determined upon the destruction of Boyadjik. As they say, first he fired seven cannons, and then left the Bashi-Bazouks and the troops to enter it. The village was complete burned to ashes. It is said that few of the women and children were killed, few of the men were left, while the Turks had not a single one killed. See what sort of insurgents were the peasants of Boyadjik. This tragic event occurred on Monday, the 17th (29th) instant, and in the evening of the same day Shevket Pasha returned to Yamboli. On Wednesday the 19th (31st) it was rumoured that Shevket Pasha started for the village of Bash-Tepeh, with his troops and Bashi-Bazouks. His Holiness the Bishop of Sliven hastened to propose to the Mutessarif (Civil Governor) of Sliven that before the destruction of these villages an investigation should be made to ascertain whether their inhabitants were really insurgents. The Mutessarif, deeply moved at the fate of Boyadjik, expressed his regret for what had happened, and giving a letter of recommendation to the Bishop for Shevket Pasha, begged him to go himself and hold an investigation about the state of things in those villages. Accompanied by a corporal, Mehmed Aga, and eight zaptiehs, the Bishop overtook Shevket Pasha in the village of Karadja Mouratli. Here he found also a certain Bey from Fundukley, who, hearing the mission of the Bishop, began to accuse him of having misrepresented the matter to the Mutessarif, and of having dared to meddle with military matters —something, as he said, inconsistent with his duty and office. Then the Pasha took out and read to the Bishop a telegram from Serdari-Ekrem—Abdul Kerim Pasha—in which it said:—'As it has been found on inquiry that the inhabitants of these seven villages are insurgents, you are commanded to destroy them.'

"Therefore the Pasha told the Bishop that he must fulfil the order. Hereupon the above-mentioned Bey went out of the room, and soon after two Turks, pretending to be in great terror, came in, and loudly informed the Pasha that the Bulgarians had destroyed their villages. The Pasha looking angrily to the Bishop, asked him, 'Do you see what your peaceful Bulgarians do?' The Bishop told him that he could not believe the report of these two men. Falling on his knees, he begged the Pasha not to destroy the villages, but to allow him to go and hold an inquiry himself. The Pasha complied with his request, and the Bishop, accompanied by the Caimakam of Eni-Zaghra, started for the insurgent villages. On their arrival there, they found no insurgents but a host of plunderers, who were driving and carrying off the cattle and furniture of the poor peasants.

The following are statements contained in a letter from Kopnishtitcha, dated the 9th of June (o. s.):—

"There is hardly a man left in the village. Those who were not killed have been sent as prisoners to Philippopolis under the pretext that they are committeejees (members of the Revolutionary Committee). The soldiers are quartered upon the inhabitants, and they do with them what they like. Everything valuable has been stolen, and the poor people are dying of hunger. One mother killed her children on this account, and then herself. These cruelties are committed by the regular troops as well as by the Bashi-Bazouks."

An official report before me says, in summing up the state of the district of Philippopolis:—

"In this fertile sandjak the most complete anarchy is reigning. The law is nowhere respected, authority is not in any wise respected. Where will it all end? God only knows. With tears in my eyes, in the name of humanity, and in that even of the interest of the State, I request —— to take pity on us and our fellow-subjects, and let the Government know all the gravity of our misfortune, and all the atrocities which have been committed, so that the neighbourhood may be saved from total ruin."

Reschid Pasha, who is responsible for the massacre of Peroushtitza, mentioned in my previous letter, the atrocities of which could not be exaggerated, is reported to have prepared for the vindication of his character in a truly Turkish fashion. He visited a neighbouring village, and compelled the trembling priests and headmen to put their seals to a paper certifying that Peroushtitza was not destroyed by him, and that only about sixty persons had been killed, most of whom had killed themselves.

A Turkish correspondent to one of the Turkish papers of the capital condemns in very severe terms the measures taken for the suppression of the revolt, and concludes by asking whether it is wise to continue to treat as slaves a population so far superior to their own in education.

The schools are the special objects of attack by those who pride themselves on having the secret of putting down a rebellion in the quickest way. The Bulgarians, working at an immense disadvantage, have by private personal sacrifice established a school in almost every village. Girls' schools have also been started in many places, and "Mothers' Associations" have brought together their contributions for the education of the poor girls as teachers for these schools. The High School of Gabrovo, for the preparation of young men as teachers, was founded by the proceeds of a legacy left by a Gabrovo Bulgarian who died in Russia. Some of its teachers are men who would hold a first-class position as teachers anywhere. Professor Ivan Gizeleff, the teacher of mathematics, may be especially mentioned as a man of culture and talent. He, with all his associate teachers, is now in irons, their school broken up, their scientific collections destroyed, and the school building converted into a military storehouse. A large number of school teachers have been hanged, and threats have been made that not a schoolmaster shall escape, and that hereafter no schools, except primary schools, shall be allowed. This is a fearful blow for a people who have struggled more manfully against ignorance, and made more sacrifices to keep up their schools during the past ten years than any other nationality in the Empire.

Looking through the facts before me there are indications of a general understanding among the Turkish authorities in Bulgaria that the easiest way of getting rid of the complications arising from European interference or sympathy on behalf of the Christians is to diminish their number. I see no other sufficient explanation of the deliberate system of plunder and massacre which has been organized. From no one quarter does there come evidence of any serious attempt having been made to repress the brutalities of the soldiery or of the Bashi-bazouks. All that Government appears to have done is to have given permission, or at least not to have issued restraining orders, to rob, violate, and kill all Christians, and to take every possible care to prevent evidence reaching Constantinople. It is noteworthy, too, that a special attack has been made upon the priests, teachers, and literary men among the Bulgarians; and I am assured that a high Turkish official has openly declared that the peasantry who are wanted to cultivate the soil are the only people who ought not to be exterminated.

As to the accuracy of all the main facts there can be no doubt. In Constantinople nobody hesitates to believe that many thousands of innocent men, women, and children have been slaughtered; that at least sixty villages have been utterly destroyed; that the most terrible scenes of violence have been committed; and that a district among the most fertile in the Empire has been ruined for many years to come. I have never pretended that the statistics of deaths and of plunder could be given with anything like accuracy. In an indiscriminate destruction of lives and property only the broad facts are possible. In many cases, perhaps in most, there is a great tendency towards exaggeration. But I have taken the lower numbers rather than the higher, and have dismissed many stories which are probably well founded but exaggerated. In the statements I have made there is, I

believe, no exaggeration. The allegations made in my last letter of the villages destroyed were definite. If any one is denied, the issue becomes one of fact, and I will prove it, or admit that I am misinformed. Till then, it is idle to talk about exaggeration. Most of the statements made have been communicated to several of the Embassies, including, I believe, our own; and had there been any doubt as to their accuracy, either on the part of the Embassies or of Government itself, nothing would have been easier than to send a Commissioner into the neighbourhood, easily accessible from Constantinople, where the atrocities are alleged to have occurred. Let it be noted, also, that the more important statements as to the number of villages destroyed and of people killed have been published in the Turkish, French, and Bulgarian newspapers of the capital. All these papers are under a strict censor. In no case has he denied the statements or suspended a paper—as he does repeatedly in similar cases—for publishing untrue statements. He knew, probably, that they would plead that the statements were true, and would prove their truth. And yet these same papers have spoken of the accumulation of correspondence giving detailed accounts of these occurrences, the publication of which was considered by the censor as improper at the present time.

I have spoken to Turks who put the number of killed at 20,000. I have met with officials connected with various Embassies which have had special information, and have heard virtually the same account from all. Nowhere, to my knowledge, has the estimate of killed—the great majority of whom are on all hands believed to be innocent—been put lower than 12,000. I have spoken with merchants who have had private letters telling the same tale. The Bulgarian Exarch has made substantially the same statements to the Porte in an official paper. From all sources comes a compact body of testimony showing that crimes have been committed on a scale which Europe has not known for many years. Turkey has been telling Europe for years that she has arrived at a state of civilization where she ought to be recognized as within the pale of international laws, that the Capitulations ought to be abolished, and that she ought no longer to be treated as a semi-barbarous Power. The facts I have mentioned are sufficient comment on her request.

Inclosure 2 in No. 140.

Extract from the "Daily News" of July 10, 1876.

(By Submarine Telegraph.)

(From our own Correspondent.)

Paris, Sunday night.

A VIENNA telegram, dated this day, published by the "Courrier de France," says:—

"A horrible massacre of Christians, lasting two days, has just occurred at Gabrovo and the surrounding villages. There were upwards of 10,000 victims. The Turk sent from Constantinople to direct the slaughter is Ibrahim Bey."

No. 141.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 13, 1876, 3:40 P.M.*

THE following appears in the "Daily News" of to-day:—

"*Belgrade, Tuesday night.*

"In the Tatar Bazardjik district in Bulgaria, the Bashi-Bazouks have, it is said, boastfully paraded cartloads of heads of murdered women and children. These exhibitions are their revenge after each defeat. Young women are now, it is affirmed, regular articles of traffic, being sold publicly in the villages by the Tartars and the Turks.

"It is very important that Her Majesty's Government should be able to reply to the inquiries made in Parliament about these and similar statements of atrocities."

Inquire by telegraph of the Consuls, and report as soon as you can.

No. 142.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 137.) *Foreign Office, July 13, 1876.*

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a further extract from the "Daily News," reporting that in the district of Tatar Bazardjik cartloads of the heads of murdered women and children were boastfully paraded as their revenge after each defeat.

It is, moreover, affirmed that Bulgarian women are now sold publicly in the streets.

Her Majesty's Government are waiting to receive intelligence from your Excellency as to the truth of these reports.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Extract from the "Daily News" of July 13, 1876.

THE WAR IN THE EAST.—MORE MOSLEM ATROCITIES.—PROGRESS OF THE CAMPAIGN

(By Submarine Telegraph.)

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Belgrade, Tuesday night.

IN the Tatar Bazardjik district in Bulgaria, the Bashi-Bazouks have, it is said, boastfully paraded cartloads of heads of murdered women and children. These exhibitions are their revenge after each defeat. Young women are now, it is affirmed, regular articles of traffic, being sold publicly in the villages by the Tartars and Turks.

No. 143.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 20. Political.) *Canea, Crete, June 25, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to his Excellency Sir Henry Elliot, one inclosing a translation of the final address of the Christian Deputies of the General Assembly to his Excellency Réouf Pasha, and the other reporting a fresh panic at Rethymo, in this Island, due to fears of a general massacre of the Christians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

Consul Sandwith to Sir H. Elliot.

Canea, Crete, June 22, 1876.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 19th instant I had the honour to advise your Excellency that I would transmit by this post a translation of the last address made by the Representatives of the Cretan Christians, which I accordingly do. The address begins by stating that the Organic Law, which was accorded in recognition of the rights of the Christian islanders, was subsequently violated in several particulars, especially by the Vizirial Orders of the 30th December, 1871, the 11th August, 1873, and the 29th February, 1872, and by the illegal supplementary tithe of 2½ per cent., which, in spite of the Iradé ordering its restitution, has never been restored. The Vizirial Orders have reference to certain changes in the procedure of the Courts of law which contravene provisions of the Organic Law.

They go on to say that again and again the General Assembly has had the courage to raise its voice against these and similar encroachments on their privileges, and that the

annual convocation of the Assembly has been simply an imposture (*φαυλισμός*), its so-called labours resulting in empty talk about agriculture, commerce, and industry, the means of developing which were never placed within their reach. It was in order to improve the deplorable state of the administrative system that the General Assembly solicited the introduction of certain modifications in the Organic Law since, as it has hitherto been carried out, power has been concentrated in the hands of a few who oppress the many. It is unnecessary, they say, to point out who are the representatives of this system which has caused so much injury to the country, because they have mentioned them in a special report which has received no attention.

They here refer to a Petition presented about three weeks ago, in which they pray that the two Mushaves (Counsellors), Hamid Bey and Theodoraki Effendi, and the obnoxious Petrides Effendi, be removed from their posts. They then remind his Excellency the Vali Pasha that he had formally promised them in a full sitting that they need not elect the Councillors and Judges till the answer to their demands had been received from the Porte; in spite of which, after the Grand Vizier's telegram had been received, his Excellency urged them to proceed to the election of these functionaries according to the dispositions of the old Organic Law, unchanged by the modifications they had proposed, although they several times requested that the Assembly might be prorogued till the answer from the Porte was received. But, they continue, as the good administration of the country depends on the elections, we should be wanting in our duty if we proceeded to make them in forgetfulness of the demands we have already put forward. If your Excellency insists on keeping in their posts the Councillors and Judges, whose powers have already lapsed, and to dissolve the Assembly, it only remains for us to return to our homes and to wait anxiously and with submission the sanction of our demands, throwing all the responsibility on him (*i.e.*, Réouf Pasha), who may have misrepresented the legitimate wishes of the Christian inhabitants of Crete of which we are the faithful interpreters.

With regard to their assertion that Réouf Pasha had promised that the Assembly should not be dissolved till the answer to their demands should come, it is unfortunately true that his Excellency had imprudently made this promise, since he avowed having done so to myself and to some of my Colleagues. It seems that his Excellency's spirit of conciliation had carried him too far, and that subsequent instructions from his Government had obliged him to retract a promise formally made, conduct which has forfeited him some of the respect and esteem he had previously enjoyed. The Deputies returned to their homes on the 20th instant, in a Turkish frigate, which will land them at the different harbours of the Island, and before leaving, the Vali Pasha engaged to convoke them anew as soon as the Porte had come to a final decision about the proposed changes in the Organic Law. Should the answer be unfavourable, I do not anticipate any commotions, but it is doubtful if, in that event, they will consent to meet another year, and they will nourish their grievance until a favourable moment occurs for turning it to account.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

Final Address of Christian Deputies to Réouf Pasha.

(Traduction.)

La Canée, le 6 Juin, 1876.

Excellence,

TOUT le monde sait pour quels motifs et dans quelles circonstances l'île de Crète fut dotée de ce qu'on est convenu d'appeler le Statut Organique. Ces lois spéciales bien qu'elles eussent été le résultat de la reconnaissance des droits imprescriptibles du peuple Chrétien de l'île, furent pourtant violées dans plusieurs de leurs dispositions. Cela est suffisamment prouvé par plus d'un fait et par les Ordonnances des 30 Décembre, 1871, 11 Août, 1873, et 29 Février, 1872, qui portent une atteinte grave à la juridiction des tribunaux ainsi que par la surtaxe de 2½ pour cent illégalement ajoutée à la dîme et dont le pays attend encore la restitution, malgré l'ordre Impérial et les réclamations de l'Assemblée à cet égard.

L'Assemblée Générale, dans presque toutes ses sessions, a eu le courage de faire des représentations énergiques et de démontrer que l'égalité devant la loi et la forme du self-gouvernement tant de fois proclamées en Crète étaient complétement illusoires; et que la convocation annuelle de l'Assemblée n'était qu'une supercherie, ainsi que cela a été prouvé par la nullité de ses travaux limités par les mots vides de sens, agriculture, commerce, et industrie, comme si le développement des ressources du pays eût été possible

sans bonne volonté, sans une bonne administration, et sans les établissements de crédit nécessaires pour le règlement de la question des dettes qui ruine l'agriculture et le commerce de l'île. La violation incontestable du Statut Organique a été aussi mise en évidence par le Firman Impérial du mois de Septembre dernier qui en ordonne la stricte application.

En attendant et en dépit de l'ordonnance sus-mentionnée ce déplorable système administratif n'a point cessé d'être pratiqué dans l'île. C'est ce qui a engagé cette année les Membres Chrétiens de l'Assemblée à solliciter avant tout les modifications des Lois Organiques sur des bases plus larges et plus conformes aux intentions du Gouvernement et aux exigences de la présente époque de civilisation; car de la façon dont le Statut Organique a été appliqué jusqu'ici, tout le pouvoir était concentré dans les mains de la minorité, qui opprime la majorité et ne se soucie que de l'intérêt de ses partisans. Nous n'aurons à dire ici quels sont les représentants de ce système qui est la cause de tout le malaise du pays. Nous les avons désignés dans un rapport spécial qui, contre toute attente, est resté jusqu'ici sans aucun résultat bien que nous ayons démontré tout ce qu'il y avait d'urgent dans cette demande pour le bien général de l'île.

Votre Excellence sait que sur l'autorisation spéciale du Gouvernement Impérial, nous lui avons soumis les modifications que nous avons cru devoir apporter au Statut Organique et qui, nous nous flattons de la croire, sont destinées à inaugurer une ère nouvelle de prospérité dans notre patrie. Dans l'attente de l'approbation de nos demandes nous nous sommes bornés seulement à quelques théories et appréciations générales sans avoir délibéré sur aucune des questions vitales du pays. Cette abstention de notre part a été motivée par les assurances réitérées de votre Excellence que les modifications n'auraient pas tardé à être acceptées et par la promesse donnée en pleine séance de l'Assemblée et d'après laquelle nous n'aurions pas à nous occuper d'élections avant la sanction des modifications dont il s'agit. C'est pour cela que nous avons sollicité à plusieurs reprises une prorogation de l'Assemblée.

Toutefois à la réception du dernier télégramme par lequel le Grand Vizirat annonce que nos modifications venaient d'être soumises à l'examen d'une Commission Spéciale dont la Sublime Porte nous ferait connaître prochainement l'opinion, votre Excellence, contre toute attente et nonobstant ses engagements formelles, nous a invités à procéder à l'élection des Conseillers et Juges en prenant pour base les anciennes Lois Organiques.

Mais comme la prospérité et la bonne administration du pays dépendent surtout de les élections, nous croirions manquer à nos devoirs si, oubliant le passé et les demandes que nous venons de formuler, nous nous décidions à faire des élections au préjudice de nos commettants. Ce qui précède semble donner quelque consistance à l'étrange rumeur mise en circulation et d'après laquelle on se proposerait d'assimiler la Crète aux autres provinces de l'Empire, malgré les priviléges qui lui furent exceptionnellement octroyés.

Si votre Excellence insiste à faire des élections et à maintenir dans leurs fonctions des Conseillers et des Juges déjà revoqués; si elle venait à dissoudre l'Assemblée, il ne resterait plus aux soussignés, fidèles au principe légal qu'ils ont adopté, qu'à retourner dans leurs foyers et y attendre avec autant d'anxiété que de soumission la sanction des demandes susmentionnées, en rejetant toute responsabilité sur celui qui aura dénaturé les vœux légitimes du peuple Chrétien de la Crète dont les soussignés ont été les fidèles interprètes.

Les soussignés profitent de cette occasion pour exprimer encore une fois la confiance qu'ils ont dans la sagesse du Gouvernement Impérial dont ils sont les sujets dévoués et pour renouveller à votre Excellence les assurances de leur haute considération.

(Les 42 Députés Chrétiens de l'Assemblée Générale.)

No. 144.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 72. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, July 2*, 1876.

AT two o'clock this afternoon I had the honour to address to your Lordship a telegram, stating that "the Prince of Montenegro had declared war, and left Cettigné at six this morning to join his troops in the field."

The Russian Consulate received the intelligence at eight this morning, but did not make it public for some hours.

I asked M. Yonine at once to what point the Prince had gone, but he professed not to know.

M. Yonine himself goes to Montenegro on the 4th instant, and will accompany the Prince during the campaign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 145.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 691.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 30, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a report from Mr. Sandison, stating that the Grand Vizier had received a letter from the Prince of Servia enumerating the complaints of Servia against the Porte, and that the Servian Agent had at the same time received a despatch for communication to the Turkish Government representing the advantages that would ensue from the cession of Bosnia to that Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Therapia, June 29, 1876.*

M. MAGAZINOVITCH presented this afternoon to Safvet Pasha a letter, arrived by special messenger to-day, from Prince Milan to the Grand Vizier, which enters at length into the past and present grievances of Servia, and also, I believe, into the evils of the insurrection as affecting the peace and tranquillity of the Principality.

The letter is accompanied by another one from the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs to M. Mugazinovitch, intended for communication to the Porte, stating that in presence of the prevailing state of things in Bosnia, it would be very desirable on political, financial, and military considerations, that the Government of that province should for the future be made over to Servia. This, as far as I could understand, is the purport of the letter, which, though not bearing precisely the character of an ultimatum, would seem to be intended as a prelude to a declaration of war, likely to follow at no distant period.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 146.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 693.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 1, 1876.*

I RECEIVED yesterday your Lordship's telegram of the 29th ultimo, stating that the Roumanian Government have requested Her Majesty's Government to intervene with the Porte, so that, in the event of hostilities with Servia, Turkish ships of war might not come up to that part of the Danube which separates the Servian and Roumanian territories, and directing me to advise a conciliatory attitude towards the Moldo-Wallachian Principalities.

I have communicated this message to Safvet Pasha, but am at present unable to say what the Porte proposes to do.

Your Lordship will, however, remember that, when a short time ago the Austrian Government proposed to Russia to prohibit the exportation of arms destined for Servia, the latter Power declined acceding to the suggestion.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition have since been introduced into Servia through Roumania, and unless that Principality can undertake to prevent further supplies, or volunteers, from passing from its territory, the Porte may think it necessary itself to take measures to intercept them.

Safvet Pasha seemed alive to the expediency of meeting the wishes of the Roumanian Government as far as possible, and I suggested that the Turkish gun-boats should not enter the waters which divide the two Principalities until there was evidence that Prince

Charles's Government did not effectually guard their own river frontier, and prevent the passage of supplies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 147.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 695.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 1, 1876.*

THIS afternoon Safvet Pasha brought me the letter of the Prince of Servia, alluded to in my despatch of yesterday, No. 691, and allowed me to take the copy of it which I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship.

He had come, he said, at the request of the Grand Vizier to ask my opinion on the nature of the answer that should be returned.

The concluding declaration of the Prince that he was resolved to employ the military forces of the Principality for the establishment of a state of things in the insurgent Provinces favourable to the common interests of the Empire and of Servia, is but one degree short of a direct declaration of war, and I said that I should not recommend any elaborate answer being returned, or an attempt to refute the arguments contained in the letter.

It would be sufficient to say that the Porte cannot admit the present hostile attitude of Servia to have been caused by any real apprehension of attack from Turkey; that as the Prince admits, that the Imperial troops can suppress the insurrection, if he wishes to contribute to the pacification of the disturbed provinces he should withdraw his troops from the frontier, where their presence only excites false hopes in the insurgents, and the Porte therefore trusts that strict orders will be given to insure the frontier being respected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 148.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 647.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1876.*

THE Porte has received intelligence of the passage of the Servian troops, with thirty guns, across the Turkish frontier, towards Palanka, to the east of Nisch.

A declaration of war has also been received from the Prince of Montenegro by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 149.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 700.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 2, 1876.*

I LEARN that the Porte received last night a telegram from the General in command at Nisch to the effect that the Servian troops, having crossed at three points, had destroyed with their cannon a Turkish guard-house.

The General requested reinforcements, and the fighting was still going on.

From Bosnia also the Vali reports that the inhabitants of some of the districts which had submitted have risen and gone to join the Servians in the mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 150.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 701.) *Therapia, July 3, 1876.*

My Lord,

WHEN I called this morning on Safvet Pasha, General Ignatiew had just left him.

He had spoken much, and with bitterness, of the feeling exhibited here against himself and his Government, and had told Safvet Pasha that he could easily have prevented the movement of the Servians, but, finding his friendly disposition not appreciated, he had left things to take their course, and Turkey must now take the consequences of its ingratitude.

Safvet Pasha's comment to me upon this was, that the Ambassador had, in fact, unintentionally avowed that Servia always obeyed the inspirations of Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 151.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 702.) *Therapia, July 3, 1876.*

My Lord,

SAFVET PASHA tells me that from some words dropped by the Russian dragoman he suspects a project of having a European Conference being brought forward.

The Porte dreads it, believing that all the Powers except Great Britain would insist on imposing disastrous conditions on Turkey.

I said I knew nothing of such a proposal being now entertained; but if the present movement appeared likely to extend so as to threaten a European disturbance, I thought it not impossible that a Conference might be proposed, under circumstances which would make it the best thing that could be done for Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 152.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 704.) *Therapia, July 3, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE Viceroy of Egypt has sent Achmet Bey to congratulate Sultan Mourad, and to say that he would have come himself had he not been detained by important matters of Government.

The message has been well received, and His Highness has been told that he need not leave Egypt till he can do so without inconvenience.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 153.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 705.) *Therapia, July 4, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir Andrew Buchanan's telegram, stating that the Austrian Government did not propose to strengthen the military force on their southern frontier, I have the honour to inform you that Safvet Pasha told me yesterday that General Ignatiew had said to him that Count Zichy admitted being aware that 4,000 Austrian Servians, including 150 commissioned and non-commissioned officers, had already passed into the Principality.

In reply to a question from Safvet Pasha, the Austrian Dragoman had also admitted

that, with the present force, the passage of volunteers in such a difficult country could not be efficiently prevented.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 154.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 706.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 4, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a statement, upon which, I believe, perfect reliance can be placed, of the force and distribution of the Turkish army.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Statement of the Force and Distribution of the Turkish Army.

SE compose des troupes:—

1. De la Ligue (Mouvaf), 6 ans de service.
2. De la Réserve (Redif) du 1er et du 2e Ban (Sinfi Moukalem et Sinfi Tali), 3 ans de service dans chaque ban; et
3. De la Milice pour la défense nationale (Musthafis), 6 ans de service.

L'Armée de la Ligue était anciennement divisée en six corps d'armée, dont—

Le 1er,	La Garde Impériale, a son quartier-général à Constantinople.		
Le 2e,	,,	,,	Adrianople.
Le 3e,	,,	,,	Monastir.
Le 4e,	,,	,,	Erzeroum.
Le 5e,	,,	,,	Damas.
Le 6e,	,,	,,	Bagdad.

Depuis six ans un 7e Corps d'Armée a été formé, qui a son quartier général à Sanna, dans la Province de Yemen.

Les cinq premiers Corps d'Armée sont composés d'après le plan d'organisation chacun de 6 régiments d'infanterie à 3 bataillons, et de 6 bataillons de chasseurs, 4 régiments de cavalerie à 6 escadrons, et 1 régiment d'artillerie de campagne de 14 batteries à 6 pièces, dont 3 batteries à cheval, dont les pièces de 8 centimètres, système Krupp, 9 batteries à pied, parmi lesquelles 8 avec des pièces de 8 centimètres, et 6 de 9 centimètres, pareillement système Krupp, 1 batterie de montagne, canons système Krupp, et 1 batterie conduisant des mitrailleuses système Gatling.

Le 6e Corps d'Armée n'est composé que de 5 régiments d'infanterie, autant de bataillons de chasseurs, de 2 régiments de cavalerie, et d'un régiment d'artillerie.

Le 7e Corps n'a également que 5 régiments d'infanterie, 5 bataillons de chasseurs, pas de cavalerie, et 6 batteries d'artillerie, dont 3 de montagne. Ce corps ne peut encore se recruter dans son rayon et a du jusqu'à présent toujours être complété par des troupes des autres corps d'armée.

Le premier Corps d'Armée a en outre un septième régiment d'infanterie et un septième bataillon de chasseurs, ainsi que 2 régiments de cavalerie, d'origine Polonais, à 5 escadrons, dont 1 de Cosaques et l'autre de dragons; et encore 1 régiment d'artillerie dit de réserve et 1 régiment de 2 bataillons de troupes du génie; dont 1 ou 2 compagnies sont détachées à chaque corps d'armée pour les travaux de fortification, ainsi que 4 bataillons d'ouvriers artilleurs faisant service de l'arsenal de Zophani.

Le 3e Corps d'Armée a pareillement un 7e régiment d'infanterie et un 7e bataillon de chasseurs, et il lui est attaché en outre:—

1. La Brigade Bosniaque locale, composée de 2 régiments d'infanterie et de 2 bataillons de chasseurs.
2. Le régiment du cordon Grec, composé de 3 bataillons.
3. Le bataillon du cordon de Scutari d'Albanie.
4. Le détachement du cordon de Nikolsb, de 4 compagnies.

De chaque corps d'armée dépend aussi l'artillerie des places fortes situées dans le rayon du corps.

L'armée de Ligne se compose donc de—

	Hommes.
180½ bataillons d'infanterie ou de chasseurs, avec un état effectif dans le moment actuel de près de 600 hommes par bataillon, en moyenne	108,500
142 escadrons de cavalerie de 100 hommes par escadron	14,200
104 batteries, avec 624 pièces	11,440
2 bataillons de troupes du génie, 800 hommes par bataillon	1,600
4 bataillons d'ouvriers artilleurs	3,200
L'artillerie des places fortes	16,060
En tout	154,910

Avec 624 pièces d'artillerie.

La Réserve.

Les corps d'armée ont dans chacun des six districts de recrutement par corps, excepté le 6e Corps d'Armée, qui n'en a que 5 et le 7e qui n'en a pas du tout—un régiment d'infanterie de réserve à 4 bataillons du 1er ban et parvillement 1 du 2e ban. Le 1er Corps d'Armée a en outre formé depuis quelques années 3 régiments du Réserve du 1er ban parmis les habitans de la cote de la Mer Noire, et 1 parmi ceux de la côte sud des Dardanelles, lesquels habitants antérieurement fournissaient des recrues seulement pour la flotte, qui n'a pas besoin d'un matériel si nombreux. Le second ban de la Réserve n'a pas encore pu être formé dans ces districts.

Pour les troupes de la Réserve de l'infanterie les cadres d'officiers sont généralement faibles : le 1er Corps n'a pour le second ban que les officiers pour 1 bataillon par régiment ; parvillement le 5e Corps et le 6 seulement les officiers pour 1 bataillon par régiment, même pour le 1er ban. De cela résulte que dans le cas d'une mobilisation, beaucoup d'officiers doivent être transférés de la Ligne à la Réserve et des avancements être effectués sur une grande échelle.

Pour la cavalerie et l'artillerie de la Réserve existe ni une organisation ni des cadres.

Actuellement toute la Réserve du 1er ban des cinq premiers Corps d'Armée est sous les armes, donc—

				Hommes.
[illegible] de 1er Corps à 700 hommes à pied près	..	..	..	30,000
24 ..	2e Corps,	.. ..	.. ..	18,000
32 ..	3e Corps,	.. ..	(y compris les Bosniaques)	24,000
			2 régiment	.. .. ..
24 ..	4e Corps,	.. ..	.. .. ..	18,000
20 ..	5e Corps,	.. ..	.. .. ..	15,000
Total	.. ..	.. ..	.. .. ..	105,000

En outre la Réserve du 2e ban des premiers trois Corps d'Armée a été depuis peu appelée sous les armes :—

				Hommes.
24 bataillons du 1er Corps d'Armée, [illegible] hommes	..	..	.. ..	14,400
24 ..	2e ..	..	.. ..	14,400
32 ..	3e ..	..	(y compris les [illegible] Bosniaques)	25,600
Total	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	64,000

L'effectif des troupes actuellement sous les armes est donc :—

	Hommes.
1. Ligne	154,910 avec 624 pièces d'artillerie.
2. Réserve	105,000 (1er ban).
3. Réserve	64,000 (2e ban).
Total	323,910 avec 624 pièces d'artillerie.

Hors de l'état réglementaire de l'artillerie on a depuis le commencement de l'insurrection organisé sept à huit batteries de montagne dont la plupart se trouve en Herzégovine, le reste en Bulgarie et chaque bataillon de chasseurs a avec lui deux canons rayés d'une livre, système Whitworth, transportés à la manière de pièces de montagne.

La distocation des troupes de la Ligne et du 1er ban de la Réserve était dans le dernier temps à-peu près comme suit :—

	Hommes.
A Constantinople	10,000 avec
Près de Nich	30,000 avec 72 canons*
.. Widdin	16,000 avec 48 canons*
.. Novi-Bazar	12,000 avec 30 canons.
En Herzégovine	20,000
En Bosnie	18,000
Près de Scutari d'Albanie	12,000
Garnisons—Nord du Balkan	10,000
.. Sud du Balkan, en Thessalie, et en Epire ..	15,000
En Crète	7,500
Total	150,500

Dans leurs districts est resté une grande partie des troupes de la Ligne du 3e Corps d'Armée, y compris toute l'artillerie et la cavalerie, ainsi que la plupart des troupes de la Réserve du même corps, de même pour le 5e Corps (qui a cependant expédié la plus grande partie de ces troupes de la Ligne en Europe), de même toutes les troupes des 6e et 7e Corps, les troupes en garnison dans la Province de Tripoli de Barbarie (appartenant au 1er Corps), l'artillerie des places fortes, le génie et les ouvriers artilleurs de Topkané.

Les troupes de la Réserve du 2e ban des 3 premiers corps furent destinées lors de leur appel sous les armes de former en différentes localités des camps de réserve pour toute éventualité. Depuis huit jours que les relations avec la Serbie sont tellement tendues, ainsi les bataillons venant de l'Asie sont directement dirigés dans l'intérieur de la Turquie d'Europe, soit pour renforcer les corps de Nich, Novi-Bazar et Scutari, soit pour rester en garnison dans l'intérieur et pénétrer ainsi aux troupes qui s'y trouvaient de se rendre à la frontière. On veut surtout ne pas dégarnir la Bulgarie de troupes, de crainte de voir naître une nouvelle insurrection dans ce pays si des bandes réussissaient d'y pénétrer par la frontière Serbe ou en passant le Danube.

L'organisation de l'armée Turque n'ayant rien prévu en temps de paix pour la formation de divisions des trois armes réunies, il serait que partout où des troupes ont été rassemblées on trouve des bataillons de différents corps d'armée et de Ligne et de Réserve mêlés. C'est seulement pour le cas d'une action directement en vue qu'on organise des divisions sans avoir des règles pour leur composition ni pour leur force, système dont les désavantages sont connus. L'ordre a été donné tout nouvellement de former les troupes autour de la Serbie et du Monténégro en divisions.

Un grand obstacle pour les opérations des troupes Turques consiste dans le manque absolu d'une institution pour le transport des bagages, munitions, &c., qui doit être effectué par des voitures ou des chevaux de transport nécessités en cas de besoin par voie de requisition dans le pays même.

Pareillement il n'existe aussi pas des ambulances ou d'autres prévisions sanitaires pour l'entrée en campagne dans l'armée Turque.

Quant à la Milice pour la défence nationale qui est formée par les individus qui ont servi dans la Ligne et dans la Réserve, il n'existe pour elle ni un plan d'organisation, ni des cadres, ni des dépôts spéciaux d'armes.

A part les troupes régulières le Gouvernement peut engager un nombre difficile à calculer, d'irréguliers (Bashi-Bazouks) en Europe, principalement des Albanais et des Circassiens, d'une valeur généralement douteuse, à cause de leur indiscipline et de leur amour du pillage. Ils peuvent cependant servir d'atteindre le but stratégique par exemple dans le cas d'une invasion en Serbie. On a vu tout dernièrement les Circassiens à l'œuvre lors de la suppression de l'insurrection en Bulgarie. On a formé des petits corps d'irréguliers en Herzégovine et près de Scutari, on m'a dit que près de 15,000 Circassiens devaient être attachés à l'armée de Nich.

No. 155.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 713.)

Therapia, July 5, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Viceroy of Egypt has sent up here two regiments, which he has placed at the disposal of the Porte in the present war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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* Près de 12 bataillons avaient [illegible] à pied [illegible] Bulgare.

No. 156.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 714. Confidential.)

Therapia, July 5, 1876.

My Lord,

THE inclosed extract of a letter, which I beg may be considered as very confidential, from a Greek gentleman, giving an account of a conversation with General Ignatiew, will give your Lordship a correct idea of the kind of language that he is in the habit of holding.

However extravagant the assertion may appear that I had written to Belgrade that M. Cristich would not be received, and thus pushed the Servian Government to war, there is no reason to suspect my correspondent of having put the words into the General's mouth.

His language with respect to Greece agrees with that which he has been known to be holding for many months, when he used to tell the Greeks that their opportunity would come in the spring, and they had better be prepared to seize it.

The anti-Russian feeling displayed by the Greek community here has provoked much resentment in the mind of the Ambassador.

General Ignatiew's manner of speaking of the absence of the King of Greece from Athens, at the present moment, rather supports the view of it always taken by the Greeks of this place, who believed that His Majesty went away in order to leave his Ministers free to take such measures as they chose, without his being personally compromised by them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Extract from a Private Letter to Sir H. Elliot, dated July 4, 1876.

LE Général Ignatiew m'a dit que c'est vous qui a poussé les Serbes à la guerre, et que vous avez une grande responsabilité, car vous avez télégraphié à Belgrade que Cristich ne serait pas reçu ici et que la lettre du Prince resterait sans réponse. A présent l'Angleterre propose à la Russie la création des petits Etats autonomes, mais il faut d'abord voir le résultat de la lutte.

A la Conférence qui réglera prochainement ces questions la Grèce n'aura pas le droit de réclamer quelque chose, car elle a montré de l'indifférence. Je lui ai répondu que l'opinion publique en Grèce repousse toute action contre la Turquie à moins qu'une Puissance forte ne lui tende la main. La Russie, m'a-t-il répondu, ne peut pas l'aider, car elle s'est engagé avec les autres Puissances de se tenir neutre, mais les Grecs pourraient parfaitement faire un mouvement du côté de Thessalie sans engager nullement le Roi et le Gouvernement. Je lui ai répondu que le pays n'est pas prêt, ni pourra l'être, pour faire des démonstrations en faveur des Serbes et que la Grèce se réserve ses forces pour une autre époque plus favorable.

En résumé, le Général travaille activement pour un mouvement populaire sans compromettre le Roi et son Coumoundouros et j'ai des indices qui me font croire que le mouvement aura lieu par Grivas.

Dans la conversation j'ai dit au Général, pourquoi le Roi nous a-t-il laissé dans des circonstances aussi graves? Le Général m'a répondu que la présence du Roi était inutile, car il faut un mouvement sans compromettre la Royauté.

Je vous laisse l'analyse de cette phrase.

No. 157.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 715.)

Therapia, July 6, 1876.

My Lord,

ABDI PASHA, the ex-Minister of Police, has been appointed to command the Bashi-Bazouks enrolled to operate against Montenegro, and has already left for Antivari.

Although an old man, he is active and energetic, and, from what I have heard of him,

I hope he may be able to exercise a salutary authority over the wild mountaineers under his orders.

I have strongly recommended that an energetic commander should be appointed over the irregulars to be employed in Servia, and I have pointed out to the Turks that if the progress of their troops in that Principality is marked by barbarities upon an unresisting population, the indignation throughout Europe may become so great that the Government may be driven by the force of public opinion to step in to put a stop to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 158.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 716.)

Therapia, July 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose two despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis upon the present state of Bulgaria, and the excesses committed in the suppression of the insurrection.

These have unquestionably been very great, as was inevitable from the nature of the force which the Porte was, in the first emergency, obliged to employ, but it is equally certain that the details which have been given, coming almost exclusively from Russian and Bulgarian sources, are so monstrously exaggerated as to deprive them of much claim to attention.

Cases of revolting cruelty have been mentioned to me in such a circumstantial manner as to make it almost impossible to doubt this truth, but which proved on investigation to be entirely fictitious; and, without impartial agents on the spot, I am unable to say more than that I am satisfied that, while great atrocities have been committed, both by Turks upon Christians and by Christians upon Turks, the former have been by far the greatest, although the Christians were undoubtedly the first to commence them.

I have spoken to one of the most influential Bulgarians upon the subject of the sale of Bulgarian children, to which Mr. Dupuis alludes, and he told me that it had also been reported to him, but that he had been unable to ascertain that anything of the nature of a traffic in them was going on.

Many fatherless children had been received both into Turkish and Greek families, but he looked upon them as having been taken chiefly out of charity.

I said I had already made representations on the subject to the Porte, and he promised to give me the result of the further inquiries he was making on the subject; but that the Circassians, who have no compunction in selling the children of their own countrymen, would scruple to sell those of the Bulgarians is not to be supposed, and I have not a doubt that many such instances must have occurred.

I have already informed your Lordship that very strict orders were given for the disarming of those lawless people, but the operation was found to be extremely difficult, and proceeded but slowly.

For weeks past I have never seen one of the Turkish Ministers without insisting upon the necessity of at once putting an end to these excesses, and their answer has been invariably the same.

They deny that the cruelties have been upon a scale at all approaching to what they are represented; they point out that the horrors committed on Turkish women and children are passed over in silence; and they plead that they had no alternative but to use the irregular force at their disposal to put down an unprovoked insurrection fomented from abroad, the authors of which are responsible for the sufferings which have been entailed upon both Christians and Mahomedans.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 158.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Adrianople, June 28, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE learnt that on the 13th of May last, when the village of Peroushtitza was destroyed, a few Bulgarian children were offered for sale by gipsy women, who found

them on the roads between that place and Philippopoli. Nobody, however, appears to have heard of any children having been sold by Circassians either here or in Philippopoli, but it is not at all unlikely that such may have been the case in remote places. The insecurity of the public roads, I am told, is so great just now, that communication with distant localities in this province is extremely difficult, and it is precisely in those distant parts that the traffic in children by Circassians may have taken place. I am, therefore, of opinion that the reports made to Sir P. Francis in this respect should not be dismissed as unfounded until opportunities offer for further inquiries.

As regards the supplying of Turkish harems with Bulgarian girls, this is also a fact which I think admits of little doubt. Turks have been heard to declare that among the inhabitants of the burnt villages brought away after the submission of Abrak-alan, there were no young women.

According to respectable Bulgarian testimony, it would appear that in some instances the young women carried off were dishonoured, and then sent back or murdered, but generally they are reserved for Turkish harems. The same testimony states that from Peshtera and the villages at the foot of the Rhodope Mountains, a great many children were carried off by Mussulmans, who will be converted to Mahomedanism and domestic slavery.

I have reported to Sir P. Francis, and your Excellency may also desire to know, something of the judicial proceedings now going on in connection with the late disturbances. It is stated that the number of those arrested in consequence of those disturbances amounts to 2,000 persons, most of whom are innocent, and have been taken up either on slight suspicion or to serve as witnesses.

The detention of these people is the more to be regretted as the great majority of them are agriculturists who have crops to look after. As the harvest has set in, and no woman dares go to the fields alone, their families have been plundered of all they possessed, and, left homeless and destitute, now incur the further risk of losing their crops, and of being reduced to misery and starvation during the ensuing winter.

Instead of despatching business with those already in custody, the Istintakjis every day order fresh arrests. It is difficult to explain this imprisoning mania, unless there is any truth in the reports that some of the petty officials engaged in these inquiries are carrying on a lucrative trade in connection therewith. I am told that they employ as their tool a Greek lawyer, who is at present the official translator of Bulgarian papers found in the possession of prisoners. This worthy recently offered, I understand, to effect the release of an innocent man for the sum of 50 liras.

Seven Commissions have been appointed to examine the prisoners. It is true that each Commission contains a Bulgarian member, but when it is known that these members are chosen from amongst the most abject and obsequious Bulgarians, the value of their participation will be easily understood. The Commission for Philippopoli originally contained a Bulgarian, who, it would appear, had the boldness to make an observation favourable to a prisoner. For this offence he was informed that his services were dispensed with, so that now the Commission works without the assistance of a Bulgarian member.

Up to the present time the Commission have ordered the arrest of some well-known Bulgarians for offences which I am assured no ingenuity could connect with complicity in the recent insurrectionary movement. For instance, three Bulgarian merchants have been imprisoned for being, the one a President, the other Secretary, and the third Cashier, of a sort of savings bank.

It would appear that some young men, since implicated in the late troubles, withdrew their deposits from the bank before the outbreak. It is now endeavoured by the authorities to accuse these three merchants with knowing the end for which these young men withdrew their money; an accusation, I am informed, as baseless as it is afflicting for men of acknowledged respectability.

Another imprisonment which seems to have caused some sensation is that of Joakim Effendi Grueff, a Bulgarian author, who was at one time Mouavin of Philippopoli. It appears that the aforesaid Greek lawyer, mistranslating some Bulgarian books, alighted on some passages in a work by Grueff, which seemed to him to justify the immediate arrest of the author. The absurdity of this procedure will be best understood when it is known that all the works of this author, before being issued to the public, were submitted to the censorship of the Ministry of Public Instruction.

On the termination of the examination the prisoners will be tried before the Extraordinary Court (Mehkeme-i-fevka-al-adé), under the presidency of Selim Effendi, the Imperial Commissioner. This Tribunal is composed of twelve members, a Public Prosecutor, and a prisoner's Counsel. I hope to have an opportunity on another occasion of saying something on the constitution of this Court. For the present I will only mention

in connection therewith that the whole system of defence by the prisoner's Counsel, an ignorant Bulgarian of Tatar Bazardjik, reduces itself, I am told, to the stereotyped phrase of—"He has been very stupid, Sir; do forgive him."

As I reported to your Excellency on the 26th instant, the first capital sentence of this Court was carried out in Philippopoli on the 21st instant. It is said that the prisoners were found guilty of putting to death twenty-seven Turks.

Prince Tzereteliw (Second Secretary of the Russian Embassy in Constantinople), at present in charge of the Consulate at Adrianople, in company with the Greek Vice-Consul in Philippopoli, on the 23rd instant, went to Tatar Bazardjik to visit some of the destroyed villages.

Great activity is being displayed by the Turkish authorities in the forwarding of troops to the Servian frontier. Five battalions of infantry and other troops were sent on from this to Sofia, Nisch and Widdin within the last three days, while further reinforcements are expected shortly to follow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 158.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Adrianople, July 3, 1876.

Sir

I AM still unable to report to your Excellency a happier or more satisfactory state of things in this province, and if I am compelled to bring to your notice the disorders that are being committed throughout the vilayet, it can be from no other motive than a desire that the Turks should by their conduct show that they are not what their deteriorators represent them to be—incapable of improvement. But, unfortunately, the reverse is the case, as the sequel will show.

Since addressing your Excellency on the 28th ultimo, I have no new facts to report, excepting the very serious disorders brought to my knowledge as having been committed by some troops on the 23rd and 24th ultimo, on the road from Carlowo. I hear that at two villages, but especially at Batak and Tchoukourly, in the district of Ghiopsu, east of Philippopoli, they were guilty of gross excesses: houses have been plundered, men tortured for money, and women outraged.

Security of life and property in the country is still represented as most unsatisfactory. Money and labour are extorted with the greatest impunity from the poor terrified Bulgarians, and murders are frequent. Thus I am informed from various sources that at Yeni-keui alone, a village completely burnt, whose inhabitants were recently sent to look after their crops, several men are missing, said to have been put to death by their Mussulman neighbours, who are privately revenging themselves for the murders for which, as I reported to your Excellency, several Bulgarians were executed in Philipopoli.

I scarcely know whether to add to the above a rumour in circulation on the 24th ultimo to the effect that a conspiracy had been discovered among the Turkish population in Philipopoli for a general pillage of Christian houses.

It was asserted—and the removal of the troops from the outskirts into the town gave some colouring of truth to the assertion—that the attack was to have occurred the night of the 22nd or 23rd of last month, but that it was prevented by some Turkish notables. The Mutessarif, to whom representations were made on the subject, denied its existence. As I am not in a position to question the Mutessarif's information on the matter, I give your Excellency the report as it reached me, as an instance of the alarms to which people are subjected from time to time.

It is estimated that there are from 100 to 150 Bulgarian children in the hands of the Pomaks (Mussulmans of the Rhodope Mountains), five of whom, however, have been saved from a certain conversion to Mahomedanism, owing to the exertions of the Greek Consul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 159.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 717.)
Therapia, July 6, 1876.

My Lord,

SINCE I wrote my preceding despatch the Greek Minister has called upon me, and spoke of a report he had received from his Consul at Philipopoli, where there is no British Consular Agent.

This report mentioned a marked improvement in the state of public security, and the disarming of the Mussulmans was being proceeded with.

He said the Governor was acting extremely well, but was badly seconded by some of the other authorities.

I asked whether any of the Greek Agents in Bulgaria had spoken of children being sold as slaves, and he replied that none of them had spoken of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 160.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 718.)
Therapia, July 6, 1876.

My Lord,

THE answer of the Porte to Prince Milan's letter, of which a copy was inclosed in my despatch No. 695, was to be returned on Monday last, when the Servian Agent called upon Safvet Pasha to ask for it.

He was told that, account having just been received of the Servians having commenced hostilities, it had become unnecessary that any answer should be made to the Prince's letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 161.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 719.)
Therapia, July 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I RECENTLY reported to your Lordship that, upon the complaint of the Porte, General Ignatiew had ordered an inquiry to be made into the proceedings of the Russian Consul at Philippopoli, a Bulgarian long known to be connected with the revolutionary Committees.

I do not know what facts may have been elicited, but, as it appears that the Consul has been superseded, it may be presumed that a case has been made out against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 162.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 720. Confidential.)
Therapia, July 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a confidential Report from Mr. Sandison in reference to a supposed conspiracy against the Sultan and his Ministers, and to different embarrassments surrounding the Government.

I have been unsuccessful in different attempts to see the Grand Vizier, and transmit this report without having had an opportunity of ascertaining how far the suppositions contained in it are correct.

The impression has become very general, and there is, I fear, no reason to doubt that

it is well founded, that the Sultan has been, and still is, much more seriously unwell than was supposed, although great mystery is made respecting his indisposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)
Therapia, July 5, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transcribe the following information, derived through M. Marinich from the Grand Vizier's son-in-law, in regard to the existence of a conspiracy against the Sultan:—

"Le Gouvernement vient de découvrir le fil de deux conspirations ourdies contre la vie du Sultan et celles des Ministres.

"Les arrestations opérées jusqu'à présent ne sont pas nombreuses. Ce sont des anciens serviteurs du palais Impérial qui, poussés par le désespoir, ont voulu tenter le sort.

"Les interrogatoires sont poursuivis avec activité, et rien n'est venu encore établir que ces machinations auraient de grandes ramifications.

"Parmi les personnes arrêtées, on compte aussi le Général de Division Halil Pasha, ex-premier aide-de-camp du Sultan Abdul Aziz."

It is difficult to vouch for the existence of any such conspiracy, which, under all circumstances, would be kept very close by the Grand Vizier and the few Ministers to whom he may have communicated it.

For some time past, however, there seems to hang a mystery over everything respecting the Sultan. Some think His Majesty's mind is affected, others that it is only his health which is suffering; but the Grand Vizier's constant attendance at the Imperial palace, and the frequent convocation of partial Ministerial Councils, for some of the Ministers are excluded from them, would seem to strengthen the supposition that something more than the war with Servia is taking up his Highness' time and attention.

I have already had the honour of expressing to your Excellency Midhat Pasha's opinion of the Grand Vizier's feelings and disposition as regards the projected constitutional reforms and innovations, one of them being the abolition of the title of "Vekili Moutlak" (the Sultan's *alter ego* in the absolute sense), which must, of course, be distasteful to his Highness, since the abolition of the title would also curtail considerably the power and authority now vested in the Grand Viziriate.

It is not, therefore, surprising to find his Highness at the head of what is now called the Conservative or fanatical party, which is opposed to all innovation, and more especially to any form of Government approaching a constitution.

It may be well to add that, since Sultan Murad's accession, we hardly see any real exercise of the Sovereign power, except through the Grand Vizier, who, it is already feared, may soon show signs of dictatorial propensities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 163.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 721. Confidential.)
Therapia, July 6, 1876.

My Lord,

SAFVET PASHA has asked confidentially whether I would consider it advisable that the Porte should revoke Prince Milan's firman of investiture, in consequence of his having taken up arms against his Suzerain.

His impression seemed to be that the measure might strengthen the Kara-Georgeovitch party, which might, perhaps, take the part of the Porte, and though there was no immediate intention of taking such a step, he wished to have my opinion upon it.

I have sent to Safvet Pasha to say that I considered it would be unadvisable to do any thing of the kind at the present moment.

The Prince had taken up arms for a cause in which his people are just now enthusiastic, and the revocation of his firman would be seen by them with indifference.

If the war turned disastrously for them, they would, probably, lay the blame of their misfortunes on the Prince, and it would then be time for the Porte to decide what should be done; but, in any case, I should strongly advise the Turkish Government to avoid the discredit of connecting themselves with the party of Kara-George, who is acknowledged to have been the instigator of the murder of Prince Milosch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 164.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 153. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 4, 1876.*

THE Turkish Minister at this Court called upon me on the 2nd instant, and informed me that he had addressed a note to the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which he had stated that he had learnt, upon good authority, that arms had been sent on the 27th ultimo from Corfu to Prevesa, and that there were in the transitory depôt at Corfu six mountain guns and upwards of 1,000 loaded shells, which were reported to be destined for Montenegro; and that he had requested M. Contostavlos to take the necessary measures to have the guns and projectiles in question seized, and that he had been assured that the Hellenic Government would send orders to that effect to Corfu.

I saw Photiades Bey to-day, and he told me that he had not yet heard what steps the Nomarch at Corfu had taken in the matter, as that official had only telegraphed to the President of the Council, saying that he would write by post; he added that he had heard from the Turkish authorities at Yanina to the effect that they could not discover that any arms had been landed at Prevesa.

Later in the day, I was informed by a person whose information I think is likely to be correct, that considerable quantities of arms had been sent from Corfu to Montenegro, and that he understood the person engaged in their transmission was a M. de Vedel, a German officer belonging to a regiment of Uhlans.

My informant appeared rather uneasy as to the policy of Germany in the East, which, he said, was not very clearly defined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 165.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 155. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 5, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on Saturday last I saw the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs and that I found him very anxious as to the rumours of war being on the verge of breaking out between Servia and Turkey. He reiterated to me his desire to continue peaceful relations with the Porte, and added that he continued to enjoin his Consuls to advise the Greeks within their Consular districts to avoid taking part in any insurrectionary movements.

Since the date of my interview with M. Contostavlos, the news of war having been actually declared has reached Athens, and has created a great deal of excitement in political circles. The Government began to doubt as to what policy they ought to pursue, and at one moment, I believe, they seriously thought that the time for having recourse to measures hostile to the Porte had arrived, and that if they continued to observe a neutral attitude the interests of the Hellenic race would be entirely forgotten, while the Slavs, on the contrary, who were engaging in hostilities, would have their cause advocated by the Great Powers. In view of the possible necessity of changing their attitude, the Hellenic Government, if I am correctly informed, telegraphed yesterday to the King and requested His Majesty to hasten his return, and it was also said that the Chamber was to be convoked. Yesterday, however, telegrams reached Athens of the defeat of the Servians, and the feeling of the Government has, as far as I am able to judge, undergone a change for the present. In support of this view I may mention that I have been informed upon good authority that the Minister for Foreign Affairs on learning the news from Servia,

telegraphed at once to the Greek Consul in Crete, instructing him to do all in his power to discourage any rising in that Island.

I met both the President of the Council and the Minister for Foreign Affairs last night at dinner at the Marquis de Gabriac's, the French Minister, and in the course of the evening I had some conversation with M. Coumoundouros. His Excellency said he was very much afraid that the cause of the Slavs would be taken up by the Great Powers, or words to that effect, and that he hoped that England would not forget the interests of the Hellenic race.

I reminded him that England had already done a great deal for Greece, in the first place in 1827, and again in 1864 when we had made over to her the Ionian Islands; that I believed it was the wish of Great Britain to maintain the integrity of the Turkish Empire, and that I thought the best course for Greece to pursue was to remain quiet, for, no matter what course she might adopt, no change would in all probability be effected in the East without the Great Powers having a voice in the matter.

M. Coumoundouros said that Greece was very grateful to England, and from what both he and other persons have said to me, I think there is every desire to deserve the goodwill of Her Majesty's Government.

Unfortunately the Government in this country is not a strong one, and in order to avoid any outcry in the press it adopts various expedients to humour various parties. Hence while professing a desire to cultivate friendly relations with Turkey, they excite suspicion by purchasing arms with a view, perhaps partly, to satisfy M. Tricoupi, who is continually urging, through the medium of the "Hora," a paper of which he is the editor, the necessity of Greece being prepared for the disruption of the Turkish Empire, and which he considers to be imminent.

I inclose herewith for your Lordship's information, translation of an article from the "Stoa" of this morning, which is much in the same strain as articles in the "Hora."

Then, again, the Government have rendered themselves open to suspicion by the fact of M. Zinopolous, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Interior, and a personal friend of M. Coumoundouros, having entered, it is said, into communications with certain persons in Epirus.

Thus the Government, through not following a completely consistent line of policy, does not on the one hand satisfy the party of action, while on the other hand it loses the confidence of the sensible men in Greece, who consider it to be for the good of the country to abstain from all intrigues against the Government of the Porte.

In conclusion, my Lord, I venture to observe that I think certain allowance might be made for the difficult position in which the Government is placed, and that some credit must be given to them for having hitherto maintained a friendly policy towards Turkey, a policy which I believe was traced out by His Majesty the King.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Extract from the "Stoa" of July 5, 1876.

(Translation.)

THE first news conveyed to us of the commencement of hostilities announced the defeat of the Servians. This news has afflicted every one. If Greece is quiet—if she has sincerely laboured to prevent complications in the position of Turkey, yet neither lately, nor indeed ever, has she been indifferent to the sufferings and fate of the Christians. But as a State belonging to the European family, which has laboured for the maintenance of peace, from her geographical position and weakness, and from the obligations which she especially owes to the populations of her own race in Turkey, the duty has been imposed upon her of subduing and silencing every generous emotion and feeling of the heart.

This duty, imposed upon her by necessity, she endeavoured to inspire also to the Innitrophe and other neighbouring provinces, but she followed with serious attention the Bulgarian insurrection, and not a single Hellenic breast remained unmoved by the sufferings of the Bulgarians.

The crimes and abominations committed by the wild hordes of Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians in Bulgaria moved the entire nation to indignation, and the question is heard on all sides, "How can Europe suffer this?" Such is the position, and such are the sentiments of Greece.

The news of the defeat of the Servians was received with grief.

According to all calculations—whilst the state of Eastern affairs remains such as it

is—Greece is in duty bound to prepare herself with all diligence and care, that at the proper moment she may be able to give assistance at least to the populations of her own race, who will not be able to escape the fatal convulsions of Turkey.

No. 166.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No 156. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 5, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Marquis de Gabriac, French Minister at this Court, read to me yesterday a despatch from the Duc Decazes, in which his Excellency pointed out that it was in the interests of Greece to remain quiet, and not to embark in an adventurous policy.

M. de Gabriac told me that he had read this despatch to M. Coumoundouros, the President of the Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 167.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 446. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 6, 1876.*

M. DE BALATCHANO, the Roumanian Agent, recently named to Vienna, called upon me to-day, and on our speaking of the objections of his Government to naval operations in the Danube against Servia, I said that though the Porte was disposed to avoid giving umbrage to Roumania, it might be obliged to take measures to prevent Servia receiving arms and munitions of war from Wallachia.

M. Balatchano assured me that the Porte could have no cause of complaint on that subject against the Roumanian Government, observing that though it has hitherto been kept secret, and he has neither informed Count Andrassy nor the French Ambassador, he has been authorized to state to me that 120,000 rifles, with a large supply of ammunition, coming for Russia, had been stopped on the frontier three weeks ago, and permission to forward it had been refused.

On my asking, then, whether he had heard of eleven batteries of Krupp guns, which were expected to arrive in Servia through Roumania, he said that he knew nothing of them; but I might rest assured that they would never reach Servia through the Principalities.

From information which I have received to-day from Belgrade, these guns do not appear to have arrived yet.

M. de Balatchano, with reference to the question of naval operations in the Danube, said his Government hoped that the Great Powers would not object to declare the neutrality of the river; and as I answered that I did not believe that Count Andrassy would assent to such a measure, he said that he did not anticipate much opposition from Austria-Hungary to the proposal, if the other Powers would agree to it.

In the course of our conversation, M. de Balatchano represented the Government of Roumania to have caused great dissatisfaction in Russia by their attitude towards Servia, and by preventing the Bulgarian Committees from making the Principality a basis of insurrectionary movements against Turkey. He said also that he did not believe that the Servians would succeed in exciting any serious insurrection in Bulgaria, as the population has no sympathy with Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 168.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 451. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 6, 1876.*

I CALLED to-day on Count Andrassy, who leaves to-morrow with the Emperor to meet the Emperor Alexander and Prince Gortchakow at Reichstadt in Bohemia, on His Imperial Majesty's way from Jugenheim to St. Petersburgh; and I said to his Excellency, as I thought it would interest him before meeting Prince Gortchakow to be made acquainted with the opinion which your Lordship had recently expressed respecting the events passing in the Ottoman Empire in a note addressed to Count Schouvaloff, I had obtained your authority to read it to him.

While I did so Count Andrassy frequently expressed his concurrence in the way in which your Lordship has described the influences under which the insurrection in Bosnia and the Herzegovina originated, and has been kept up until the present time; and the only observation in the despatch with which he did not entirely agree was that in which your Lordship treats as unfounded the apprehension which Prince Gortchakow had expressed lest successes on the part of the Turkish troops might be followed by a general massacre of the Christians, or, in his Highness' words, in their extermination.

Count Andrassy said that until now he was ready to admit there had been no ground for such an apprehension, but if the whole Mussulman population is to be armed, and wild undisciplined levies are to be brought from the distant provinces to fight against the enemies of Islam, he could not feel confident that the war might not assume the character which Prince Gortchakow anticipated.

When I had finished reading the despatch his Excellency said he was much obliged to your Lordship for having allowed me to do so, as he had been under some doubt as to the views of Her Majesty's Government, Prince Gortchakow, in a despatch dated the 1st instant, having represented your Lordship to be entirely agreed "d'être entièrement d'accord" with his Highness on the questions under consideration, and to have intimated that his Excellency's objections were the only obstacle in the way of a general understanding being adopted by the Great Powers as to the course to be pursued with respect to the future position of the Christian populations in the European provinces of the Turkish Empire.

His Excellency said that Prince Gortchakow appeared to have considered that the hope expressed in the last paragraph of your Lordship's note justified such a statement, but it could hardly be said yet that there was no difference in the views of his Highness and of your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 169.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 459.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 11, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from M. Francovich, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fiume, in which he states that the report given in several newspapers that Russian officers have furnished the Bosnian insurgents with torpedoes is entirely without foundation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 169.

M. Francovich to Sir A. Buchanan.

Excellency, *Fiume, July 4, 1876.*

I FEEL it my duty to inform your Excellency that the report given in several newspapers that Russian officers have furnished the Bosnian insurgents with Whitehead's torpedoes is entirely false; although it is true that a commission of Russian officers and engineers reside here since several months in order to receive from the torpedo factory 100 torpedoes for which the Russian Government has contracted with the inventor, Mr. White-

head, but till now only two torpedoes have been delivered to the Commissioners, and their destination was St. Petersburgh.

I have further the honour to inform your Excellency that the French Government has contracted for a fresh supply of fifty torpedoes, and that the first lot of fifty has already been shipped to Toulon on the 23rd of May last.

The public opinion here is very apprehensive in regard to the serious appearances of the moment, and especially in regard to the position Austria will take in case of the breaking out of a war. That apprehension is rather justified when one considers that Fiume and this littoral possess more than one third of the Austrian shipping, and it is therefore not to be wondered at that the population of this town and neighbourhood seriously longs for an alliance with England, which State enjoys the undivided sympathy of this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS FRANCOVICH,
Acting Vice-Consul.

No. 170.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 460.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 11, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the report published in the "Correspondance Autrichienne" of the reception by the Emperor at Bodenbach and Reichstadt of the Emperor Alexander.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Extract from the "Correspondance Autrichienne."

L'Entrevue des deux Empereurs.—L'Empereur est arrivé hier à 7 heures à Bodenbach. Il a été reçu par le Gouverneur et le Commandant de la Province, suivis des autorités de la ville. Sa Majesté portait l'uniforme de Général Russe. A 9 heures et demie le convoi Impérial Russe a fait son entrée dans la gare. L'Empereur Alexandre est descendu immédiatement de voiture et les deux monarques se sont donnée l'accolade à trois fois avec une vive cordialité. Le Czar portait l'uniforme de Colonel de Hussards Autrichiens avec la Grand-Croix de l'Ordre de St. Etienne. L'Empereur d'Autriche portait la Grand-Croix de l'Ordre de St. André. Les deux Souverains ont alors passé en revue leur compagnie d'honneur. Les présentations et les échanges de compliments ont eu lieu ensuite avec les personnages présents. Le journal Viennois raconte que le Comte Andrassy ne parvint pas tout d'abord à se rapprocher du Prince Gortchakow; lorsque ces deux hommes d'Etat se rencontrèrent enfin, ils se saluèrent très cordialement.

* * * * *

Sur un signe du Czar, tout le monde monta dans le train. Les deux monarques prirent place dans le même wagon. Le Comte Andrassy et le Prince Gortchakow entrèrent dans le même coupé.

A 9 heures 45 minutes le convoi Impérial entra dans la gare de Böhmisch-Leipa, brillamment décorée. Là se trouvait déjà le Prince Impérial Rodolphe qui venait d'arriver de Reichstadt. L'Archiduc Frédéric commandait la garde d'honneur. Dès l'arrivée du train, les deux Souverains quittèrent leur wagon. L'Empereur de Russie alla vers son Altesse Impériale le Prince Rodolphe et lui donna plusieurs fois de cordiales accolades. Leurs Majestés montèrent alors dans des carrosses qu'on tenait prêts, et se dirigèrent vers Reichstadt.

Les deux monarques arrivèrent à 11 heures 15 minutes au château de Reichstadt. Ils changèrent d'abord de vêtement, puis l'Empereur d'Autriche fit une visite d'une heure à l'Empereur de Russie. Pendant ce temps, une conférence réunissait les Ministres. Le dîner eut lieu à 1 heure, et fut suivi d'une demi-heure de cercle. A 3 heures leurs Majestés repartirent pour Leipa. Elles montèrent dans le convoi Impérial Russe et arrivèrent à 4 heures 21 minutes à Bodenbach, où elles furent saluées par l'hymne national Russe. Dès l'arrêt du train le Czar descendit de voiture, l'Empereur d'Autriche après lui, puis le

Prince Impérial Rodolphe, avec qui l'Empereur Alexandre s'entretint quelque temps. Ensuite, se tournant vers l'Empereur François Joseph, le Czar lui présenta M. de Kotzebue, Représentant de la Russie à Dresde.

Le Prince Gortchakow et le Comte Andrassy échangeaient encore quelques paroles. Le Prince Impérial s'approcha ensuite du Prince Gortchakow, avec qui il s'entretint quelques instants. Leurs Majestés prirent congé après des accolades et des serrements de main. Le Czar prit congé du Prince Rodolphe en lui donnant de nombreuses accolades.

La musique entonna l'hymne national Russe. L'Empereur Alexandre, qui se trouvait sur le marche-pied du wagon, adressa un dernier salut, auquel l'Empereur François Joseph répondit par une inclination profonde. Le train se mit alors en marche. Une minute après l'Empereur et sa suite montèrent dans le train Impérial Autrichien, qui partit pour Prague. La musique avait entonné l'hymne national Autrichien et des abords de la gare partaient les acclamations enthusiastes de la population accourue pour saluer Sa Majesté.

Le soir, à 7 heures, le convoi Impérial Autrichien arrivait à Prague, à la gare de Bubentsch, où le plus cordial accueil était fait aux augustes voyageurs. Le bourgmestre-adjoint de Prague, M. Zeithammer, présenta à Sa Majesté l'expression des sentiments respectueux de la population. L'Empereur répondit, en exprimant le regret de ne pouvoir s'arrêter plus longtemps à Prague. Le train Impérial repartit alors pour Kradschin.

No. 171.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 464. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 11, 1876.*

I HAVE reason to believe that Prince Gortchakow arrived at Reichstadt armed with several long Memoranduns on the present state of affairs in the Ottoman Empire, but that Count Andrassy expressed an unwillingness to enter into any discussion for the present, as to the course which it may be necessary to adopt, under circumstances which have not yet arisen; and I am told that the Emperor and his Excellency, whilst expressing an earnest desire to maintain a cordial agreement with Russia, gave it clearly to be understood that such an agreement must depend upon their not being expected to adopt views incompatible with the interests of Austria-Hungary, and to which public opinion in the Monarchy is opposed.

It is stated also in a Vienna journal, which appears to be well informed on this subject, that Baron Jomini had said, before the Russian Imperial party left Bodenbach, that Austria-Hungary had great reason to be satisfied with the result of Count Andrassy's conference with Prince Gortchakow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 172.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 462.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 11, 1876.*

IN answer to inquiries which I made to-day at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, I was informed that nothing appears to have taken place of any importance during the last three days on the Servian frontier, and that the Government here are entirely dependent for information on the official telegrams and reports of the Servian authorities.

The impression that the result of the fighting is unfavourable to Servia still prevails here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 173.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 463.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July* 11, 1876.

A TELEGRAM received from Mr. Monson this morning, reports that the bulk of the insurgents, and one of the Montenegrin corps d'armée are marching on Gatzko; and if intelligence received by the newspapers here from Slav sources is to be relied on, that place has already fallen.

In the same telegram Mr. Monson reports that 3,000 Austrian subjects from the Bocche de Cattaro have joined the Montenegrins. I shall not fail to mention this to Count Andrassy, when his Excellency will probably repeat his statement, that these persons are the Montenegrin subjects domiciled in Servia, who have been ordered home by Prince Nikita.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 174.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July .)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 13 *Juillet*, 1876.

LE Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois vient de prendre une décision d'après laquelle tous les ports de la Dalmatie, y compris celui de Klek, seront désormais fermés.

Une décision de cette nature dans les circonstances actuelles ne serait rien moins qu'un suicide (?) pour nous parce qu'il nous deviendra impossible d'envoyer des renforts, des munitions de guerre et autres matériels nécessaires à l'armée de l'Herzégovine. Nos forces militaires s'y trouvent éparpillées et les Monténégrins sont venus en masse cerner Stolatz et Caska et menacent de couper nos communications avec la Bosnie. Cette décision aussi inattendue qu'attentoire à notre droit de Puissance riveraine, surtout dans un moment où l'on vient de proclamer le principe de non-intervention, ne manquera pas d'entraîner la destruction de notre armée opérant en Herzégovine ainsi que celle de tous les habitants Musulmans et Catholiques de cette province.

Veuillez bien voir sans perte de temps M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et lui exposer le danger imminent que nous fera courir cette décision du Gouvernement Autrichien et nous télégraphier la manière de voir et Vavis de son Excellence à ce sujet.

No. 175.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July .)

Constantinople, le 13 *Juillet*, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

LE Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois nous notifie qu'il vient de décréter la fermeture des ports de la Dalmatie y compris celui de Klek. Cette mesure équivaut à la négation d'un droit que nous considérons comme incontestable. Mais indépendamment de la question de droit, en présence des forces Monténégrines qui se sont précipitées sur l'Herzégovine, il est à craindre que la fermeture de Klek ne mette nos troupes de ce côté dans une situation qui pourrait devenir critique. Nous en réclamons à Vienne. Votre Excellence s'empressera, de son côté, d'en entretenir Lord Derby, de lui faire apprécier toute la gravité de la décision si inattendue du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois au moment même où il vient de proclamer le principe de non-intervention, et de me télégraphier la manière de voir de Sa Seigneurie à ce sujet.

No. 176.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, July* 14, 1876.

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires here received this morning a telegram from his Government stating that closing of port of Klek will infallibly cause destruction of Turkish army in the Herzegovina and of the Mussulman and Catholic population, and requesting the intercession of the Italian Government with the Austrian Government regarding the step it has taken. Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs has promised to telegraph upon the subject to Vienna.

No. 177.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 14, 1876, 3 P.M.

AN announcement by the Austrian Ambassador that the port of Klek would be hereafter closed against Turks has produced a most painful impression upon the Porte.

Grand Vizier says that he would have been less surprised and hurt if the Austrian Government had openly asked for cession of Bosnia instead of trying to add to difficulties of Turkey by refusing it access to one of its own ports.

It is hoped that at least a similar measure will prevent supplies reaching the insurgents through Cattaro.

No. 178.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1876, 3·20 P.M.

BRING Mr. Dupuis' reports to the knowledge of the Porte. Urge strongly that the local authorities be directed to lose no time in repressing these outrages and punishing those concerned in them. That the sale of women and children be prohibited by Proclamation under the severest penalties, and that persons held in illegal captivity by the Circassians and others be immediately released and taken charge of when requisite by the local authorities.

No. 179.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†

(No. 438.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1876.

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to bring M. Dupuis' Reports, which are inclosed in your despatch No. 716 of the 6th instant to the knowledge of the Porte.

You will at the same time urge strongly that directions be given to the local authorities to lose no time in repressing these outrages and punishing those concerned in them; that a proclamation be issued, prohibiting under severe penalties the sale of women and children; that the immediate release be effected of all persons who are held in illegal captivity by Circassians or other parties, and that the local authorities take charge of such released captives, when requisite.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Repeated to Embassies. † Substance telegraphed.

No. 180.

The Earl of Derby to Vice-Consul Dupuis.

Foreign Office, July 14, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

REPORTS have reached Her Majesty's Government that atrocities of the grossest nature have been committed by the Turkish irregulars on the Christian population of Bulgaria. The number of lives sacrificed is stated to have reached 25,000, upwards of sixty large villages destroyed, and the population reduced to starvation. Women and children have been violated and sold as slaves in the public streets at Philippopolis, Tatar Bazardjik, and elsewhere, and that numbers of Bulgarians have been tortured.

I have to instruct you to proceed to those places and ascertain personally the truth of these rumours, and report the result direct to me with as little delay as possible, as well as to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 181.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, July 14, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE instructed British Vice-Consul at Adrianople to proceed to Philippopolis and other places to inquire personally into the truth of the reported atrocities said to have been committed in Bulgaria.

No. 182.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

Therapia, July 14, 1876, 5·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE military operations of the last few days have been unimportant, but encounters have taken place near Widdin, Novi Bazar, Sienitza, and other places on the frontier, in all of which the Imperial troops are stated to have been entirely successful. To-day a complete victory is reported over the Montenegrins in the Herzegovine near Gutzko, and over the Servians near their frontier, where [ ] rifles, with much provision and supplies, were captured. The communication betweenMitroviza and Serajevo is re-established and free from all difficulty.

No. 183.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

Constantinople, July 14, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE been prevented by illness from replying to your Lordship's telegram about cruelties in Bulgaria until to-day. I can add little to the statements in my despatch of the 6th instant. There is no British Consular Agent except at Adrianople, Roustchuk, and Burgas, and they have seldom been able to guarantee the truth of the reports that reached them.

There can be no doubt the instigators of the insurrection began by committing atrocities on Mussulmans and burning Bulgarian villages with the view of creating exasperation between the two races. In this they succeeded, and when the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians were called out, they indulged in every sort of misconduct, killing and outraging numbers of innocent persons.

I have not been able to verify the reports of cases of wholesale slaughter which have been brought forward, which come mostly from quarters not entitled to much confidence. A Bulgarian, upon whose statements I have several times made known cases of maltreatment to the Porte, assured me that the accounts published were grossly exaggerated, and he expressly stated that he had no complaint to make of the conduct of regular troops.

It, however, appears from other sources that the regular troops have at other times been guilty of great excess. Bulgarian children have certainly been sold, but I cannot find that there has been anything like a regular traffic in them. Until I received your telegram I had heard nothing either of cartloads of heads being paraded, or young women publicly sold, but I will make every possible inquiry. It was supposed here that the abuses had been put a stop to for some time.

No. 184.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

Therapia, July 14, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

VOLUNTEERS are offering themselves in considerable numbers for service against the Servians, and the Christians, both in the capital and in the provinces, are enrolling themselves. It is proposed to give the volunteer corps a flag, on which the crescent and the cross are displayed side by side. Nothing can be more striking in the present crisis than the almost unanimous loyalty shown by the Christians, and the hostility they feel against the Servian aggression.

No. 185.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14, 6 P.M.)

Bosna Serai, July 14, 1876, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. FREEMAN confirms the news of the repulse of the Montenegrins near Zalom.

No. 186.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15.)

Scutari, July 4, 1876.

(No. 33.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch I have this day had the honour of addressing to Sir Henry Elliot, in which I furnish his Excellency with transcripts of my telegrams of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd instant, reporting the commencement of hostilities between the Turks and the Servians and Montenegrins.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 186.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, July 4, 1876.

Sir,

THE following are transcripts of four telegrams I had the honour to forward to your Excellency, in cypher, on the dates heading them:—

"*1st July,* 8·30 P.M.

"Governor informs me the Koneli tribe have assumed a threatening attitude, and appear about to be supported by the Montenegrins. Has ordered 2,000 men to enter the district."

"*2nd July, noon.*

"Hostilities have commenced between the Servians and the Turkish troops, and fighting is going on at two hours from Nish."

"*3rd July, noon.*

"Hostilities have commenced in the Koneli district, the Montenegrins having entered it to assist the rebel tribe. Troops are being rapidly forwarded to the scene of action, and the mountaineers have been summoned to furnish their contingents."

"*3rd July*, 3:30 P.M.

"In an engagement yesterday, at an hour's distance from Podgoritza, the Turks had men killed and 48 wounded. Turks assert they inflicted a loss of 300. Until very considerable reinforcements are sent by the Porte the troops here must remain strictly on the defensive. Governor has been informed Servians were completely defeated yesterday."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 187.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 31.) *Scutari, July 4, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting to his Excellency the military movements and arrangements now in progress here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 187.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, July 4, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegrams of the last few days, I have the honour to report that yesterday morning at 10 o'clock the expected signal of three guns was fired from the citadel, and announced to the town and the surrounding mountain tribes that hostilities had commenced with Montenegro, and that they were to assemble immediately their contingents for marching on to the frontier near Podgoritza.

This morning 920 Mohammedan townsmen of Scutari have left, and it is expected by to-morrow all the Christian mountaineers will have arrived here to receive the Governor-General's orders.

The three battalions of regular troops and two batteries of artillery that were encamped here have been forwarded to Podgoritza, and only a company or about 100 men has been retained to garrison the citadel, where a very large supply of ammunition is stored.

The Turkish troops on the Montenegrin frontier do not number more than 9,000, and the volunteers from North Albania will probably not exceed 4,000; it will, therefore, not be possible for the Turkish commanders to act on the offensive until they receive very considerable reinforcements of regular troops. The Montenegrins, however, are not at all likely to be able to seriously molest the Turks, who are protected by their fortresses, block-houses, and other intrenchments. In any case, no offensive operations will be undertaken on this side of Montenegro until Moukhtar Pasha is able to enter the Principality from the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 188.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 45. Political.) *Salonica, July 3, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my despatch of the 1st instant to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting further military proceedings in my district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, July 1, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th ultimo, reporting the arrival here of three battalions of Redifs for the army at Novi Bazar, I have the honour to further report to your Excellency that another Government transport, the "Newrondi Nousret," arrived here from Smyrna on the 27th ultimo, with three and a-half battalions of Redif troops on board. These troops were immediately landed and despatched by special trains to Mitrovitza, from where they marched to Novi Bazar. On the 28th ultimo another transport, the "Assir," arrived here and discharged 50,000 rifles; 1,200,000 ball-cartridges, and a great quantity of other military stores, which have also been despatched to Mitrovitza. Four more battalions of Asia Minor Redifs are expected to-morrow, and also one battery of horse artillery, and arrangements have been made to despatch them at once to Mitrovitza. I hear that a corps d'armée, partly of Redifs and partly of Albanian irregulars, is being formed in the plain of Cossova-Polié, and I am assured that the military authorities at Monastir have made arrangements for the muster of some 50,000 Albanian Redif-Bazouks to co-operate with the troops, in case of war with Servia or Montenegro. The raising of such a large force of irregulars causes, I am told, much uneasiness and alarm to the Christian inhabitants in Macedonia and Upper Albania.

These mercenaries are as a rule badly paid, and very badly officered, and are excited to join the service by the hope of plunder and pillage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 189.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 46. Political.) *Salonica, July 5, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my cyphered telegram of the 3rd instant, relative to the Prince of Montenegro's declaration of war against Turkey, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the opening of hostilities by the Montenegrins and Servians, although not altogether unexpected, has produced much excitement among all classes of the inhabitants, and there is intense impatience to learn the result of the military operations on the frontier.

Judging from all I see and hear, the Turks experience great relief and satisfaction that the connections with Servia and Montenegro have been brought to a crisis which enables the Government to punish those two vassal provinces for their active intervention in favour of the insurgents in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

They feel that the resources of the country are fully equal to the contest which is forced upon their Government, and show a patriotic willingness to assist and support the authorities to carry on the war with activity.

Yesterday 125 volunteers offered their services, and more have come forward this morning.

Subscription lists have been opened in answer to the appeal of the Government, to meet the extraordinary outlay for military purposes, and yesterday the first instalment of 5,600*l.* of these subscriptions was despatched to Constantinople. Some Beys have put down their names for sums varying from 50*l.* to 800*l.*

Twenty thousand Albanian irregulars are marching from districts of Prisrend towards the Servian frontier, to support the operations of the Government troops, and I am assured that the Albanian Mirdites (Roman Catholics) are also mustering in support of the Government.

In the meantime the Greeks and Bulgarians in Macedonia are quiet; but from all I hear, they appear to be alarmed, and to fear the fanatical vengeance and well-known propensity to plunder of the Albanian hordes which are mustering.

Yesterday two more Government transports with troops on board arrived in this port. These troops—three battalions, with one battery of horse artillery of six Krupp guns and 110 horses, as well as 1,000 cases of ammunition—were immediately landed and despatched by special trains to Mitrovitza.

More troops are daily expected from Asia Minor.

It has been remarked that the several regiments which have landed here were well equipped for active service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 190.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 47. Political.) *Salonica, July 6, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a letter dated the 3rd instant, which I received this morning from Mr. Milton Abbott, giving some information on the state of affairs at Pristina, a town between Mitrovitza and Uscup.

Mr. Abbott has been acting as railway station-master at Pristina for the last year, and has some knowledge of the country and people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 190.

Mr. M. Abbott to Consul Blunt.

Province of Uscup, Pristina, July 5, 1876.

Sir,

IT is a fact that since the massacre of the Consuls at Salonica many instances have occurred here that would lead to the supposition that the Mussulmans were in some way excited against Christians, and therefore great fear was entertained of an attack on the churches during service, and, on account of this, people here in Pristina gave up not only going to church, but also from keeping late hours.

This fear was in some way encouraged by some mere facts, which people's imagination, as is customary on such occasion, attributed to the most fanatical consequences, and which, should they have happened at any other time, would not have been considered but as a daily (Albanian) occupation.

For instance, some days after the Salonica massacre, an Albanian, passing early in the morning before a han in Mitrovitza, and seeing the handji, who at the time was in the act of opening the shutters of his han, fired his pistol at him, seemingly without any previous provocation, and killed him on the spot. Some time after this the authorities came up, but, of course, the perpetrator was not to be found; but that did not matter to them, they had come to arrest some one, and therefore did arrest three persons, who lodged in the han, as the perpetrators of the deed, and put them in prison, from which they were released a few days back, and well they did, for the poor creatures had nothing to do with the thing. The real perpetrator is well known, and even had been seen in the act of firing the pistol by some people sitting in the opposite han, but as the man is a great bully, and has committed many crimes, they are afraid to report him, fearing to meet the fate of the poor handji.

The Kaimakam of Mitrovitza, an Albanian himself from Yanina, is seemingly a young man, that has received a certain education, but what can he do? he must also follow down the same course. He himself says: "I know what to do and how to act, but this is neither the time nor the place in which could be used much severity." I should think he was right, for the slightest severity would only provoke worse things and nothing else.

The terror of the day are the Bashi-Bazouks, who in Pristina amount to about 2,000. They have received orders to be ready to march in a short time's notice. The Bashi-Bazouks from Yaccobo, Pusrend, and Ipek are also expected here; they number from 6,000 to 8,000 men. The Christian population here and in the vicinity are greatly terrified at these news; and justly so,—for they cannot expect much of an irregular army but bad conduct, which they can anticipate from previous similar occasions.

So far as my opinion is concerned, Christians have nothing to fear if things do not turn worse. They look about their own business as hitherto, and do not dream of Russian protection and invasion. People in Salonica, I am sure, think us in a state of great agitation. Nothing of the kind. People up here are as quiet as they were before, but perhaps matters are otherwise in districts nearer Montenegro.

The country might be run down by the Bashi-Bazouks, and many depredations might

take place, considering that the Circassians, who are numerous here, will find a favourable occasion of exercising their well-known professions, in which they so much excel; but I don't think the Christians will try to put a stop to it by uprisings themselves, they are, if not fewer, at least about the same number as the Mahommedan population, and of no warlike character at all.

Just as I write this a zaptieh informs me of a peculiar affair. A soldier of the two battalions who are encamped at Koursoumli being on leave, came to Pristina town, and he went round the Christian and Jewish houses, levying money by means of frightening them that if they did not pay him he would set their houses on fire and then massacre them; this went on in a fair way the first day, and seemingly his clever trick was amply repaid, but the second day the Sub-Governor was informed of it, who immediately sent a Yousbashi,* a certain Yaschar Ayha, the terror of all the haiduks (robbers) to take hold of him; the soldier, on being duly informed of this order, which apparently was a drawback to his so far profitable trick, shut himself up in a han, and waited the arrival of Yaschar Ayha; he had not long to wait; Yaschar Ayha arrived outside the han, and told him to surrender; the answer was a well-aimed shot from a window, which passed through the heart of the brave Yousbashi; the police and some soldiers then present, seeing this, pushed in the door of the han, and seized the soldier and despatched him on the spot.

To-day we also hear that the Servians passed the frontier, and came down to Nisch, where they also won a battle. They even assure that Servians have got to Novi Bazar; if that is true, in 24 hours they can easily come to Mitrovitza.

Mitrovitza is in great agitation to-day. The whole day long trumpets and drums are beating, calling the Bashi-Bazouks to arms. The Christian population is in great consternation. We shall soon hear of some great battle. Servians seem to wish to come down here to their old battle-field, for here it was that King Lazysjaro killed Sultan Murad;† and here is Cossovo-Polgia, which is almost always met with in Servian ballads.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. ABBOTT.

No. 191.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 48. Political.) *Salonica, July 6, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE following is a summary of the telegraphic account, dated the 5th instant, which has been despatched by the Pasha of Scodra to the Porte (through Salonica) of the engagement that took place in the vicinity of Podgoritza, on Sunday the 2nd instant, between the Montenegrins and Turks.

By a prearranged signal of three guns to be fired from the fort of Podgoritza, the Albanians—Mahommedans and Christians—in the neighbouring hills, were to be warned of any imminent attack of the Montenegrins.

The above signal was made on Sunday morning the 2nd instant, and was immediately answered by a body of 1,750 Albanians of the Grudi Klementi clans, principally Christians, who poured down from the hills, and arrived in time to meet the Montenegrins who had crossed in force the border, with the intention of surprising the fortress. They attacked the Montenegrins, pursued and forced them to recross the border with loss; but the report gives no particulars as to numbers of killed or wounded.

The signal was also communicated to the surrounding districts, and within 20 hours a large force of irregulars was mustered, and marched to the support of the Government troops which had also been dispatched by the authorities to protect the frontier.

I have also been informed by a reliable quarter that the troops now acting against the insurgents in Bosnia and Herzegovina—the Servians and Montenegrins—have been divided into three separate commands:—

1. Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Novi-Bazar under Moukhtar Pasha, Governor-General and Commander-in-chief in Bosnia, with head-quarters at Fotcha.
2. Nish, Widdin, and Sophia under Eyoub Pasha.
3. Scodra (Scutari) under Ahmet Hamdi Pasha.

These three commands are placed under the direct command of Abdul Kerim Pasha, as Generalissimo and Minister for War; and I hear that he left yesterday Constantinople

* Captain. † Krol Lazar.

for the seat of war. The chiefs of the above three commands have been ordered by the Porte to march upon Servia and Montenegro.

I have also seen and been informed by a superior officer who arrived here last night from Mitrovitza, that Mehmed Ali Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the army corps at Novi-Bazar, whose head-quarters are established at Sienitza, will enter Servia to-morrow with 15 battalions, 2 regiments of cavalry, and 6 batteries of horse artillery; and that a simultaneous movement will be made by Veli Pasha, Commander of the division at Svornik.

A telegram has just arrived here from the Governor of Novi-Bazar, announcing that the Servians had crossed the border into Bosnia near Belina, where they were at once attacked and defeated by the Ottoman troops, and forced to retreat with a loss of 180 killed, 400 wounded, and 150 needle guns.

I hear that a siege train of heavy guns is being dispatched from Monastir to Mitrovitza for service in Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 192.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 263.)
Rome, July 12, 1876.

My Lord,

IN yesterday's sitting of the Senate, Signor Mamiani inquired of M. Melegari, Minister for Foreign Affairs, whether the Powers signataries of the Treaty of Paris were agreed upon the measures necessary for confining the area of the war between Turkey and Montenegro, and diminishing its consequences; and secondly, what interpretation the Ministry gives to the VIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris, by which the independence and integrity of the Ottoman Empire are guaranteed.

M. Melegari stated, in reply, that when events in the East first assumed a serious character, the Great Powers sought to come to an agreement to prevent the outbreak of war and to secure the preservation of the general peace of Europe. Their endeavours, however, to reconcile the vassal States to Turkey were in vain; but though the Powers had been unable to prevent the war, they were in a position to confine it within certain limits. This was the result of the principle of non-intervention—a principle which had been again confirmed at Reichstadt.

"I have just received," said the Minister, "a telegram stating that the two Emperors have decided to remain faithful to this principle." His Excellency proceeded to say, according to the report in the "Opinione" newspaper, that the Powers had agreed that, even if the Turkish arms were victorious, Servia and Montenegro should not find themselves in a legal position ("posizione giuridica") inferior to that which they previously occupied in regard to Turkey.

With reference to the second part of the question, M. Melegari stated that the Treaty of Paris, which involved respect for the rights of the Ottoman Empire, would be faithfully observed by Italy.

In answer to a subsequent question, his Excellency said that Italy was served by excellent Consuls, but that none of them had reported atrocities to have been committed by the Turks.

In this short incident the only point which appears to be new is the statement attributed to M. Melegari that the Powers have agreed that neither Montenegro nor Servia shall be in a different position in regard to Turkey from that which they before occupied, supposing they are defeated in the war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 193.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 7. Political. Confidential.)
Corfu, July 11, 1876.

My Lord,

IN continuation of preceding political Reports, I have the honour to transmit the inclosed, obtained from a reliable quarter, for your Lordship's information; only, I would

venture earnestly to request that whatever use may be made of its details, the source whence it emanates may be kept strictly secret.

2. The Austrian Lloyd's Agency here received a telegraphic message yesterday morning from the Agency at Constantinople, to intimate that 850 Montenegrins, under the leading of a certain Pukovich, were about to leave by the Lloyd's steamer "Minerva" for Cattaro, and directing that the necessary transport should be held in readiness for embarking them on board the Dalmatian coasting boat, the instant the "Minerva" arrives at Corfu. She came in this forenoon, and the Montenegrins, who appear to be well provided with arms, celebrated their arrival by a regular *feu de joie*.

The chiefs landed and proceeded to the church of St. Spiro, where they performed their devotions, and thence went to the citadel. But the authorities prohibited all communications with the steamer from the shore.

3. Yesterday, 10th instant, eight cases, containing from sixty to seventy muskets each, bill of lading to order, were disembarked in transit from the Brindisi mail-steamer. Cases labelled "matches."

4. On the 5th instant fifty barrels of gunpowder from Malta were landed at St. Maura. The same vessel came on to Corfu and landed other thirty-four barrels of powder, which were sold to an individual whose name I have not yet been able to learn.

5. This occurrence and the well-known fact that Colonel Grivas, late Minister of War, who is residing in the neighbourhood, and within a mile of the fort of St. Maura, and is at the head of the party of action, appears to me to render it advisable that there should be a Consular Agent in the island to watch the movements of the agitators, there and in Acarnania, as any attack on the Turkish frontier is sure to originate from that quarter, as was the case in 1854.

I merely venture to throw out this suggestion for your Lordship's consideration.

6. The local "Patriotic Association" is most active. Its agents are in daily communication with the opposite coast of Epirus, and what their objects are is no mystery. Yet along the whole line of coast, from Scuturi to Prevesa, we have not a single Consular Agent who might watch their intrigues. But, under present circumstances, an agent of some sort, especially at Sajada, right opposite, appears to be very necessary. We formerly had a Vice-Consulate at that port, but it was suppressed, unhappily, some years ago.

7. I regret to have to add that the agitation at this place in favour of the insurgents is daily gathering strength. Although I am not aware that it receives the slightest encouragement from the local authorities, the policy of abstention, which is known to be that of the King, is approved by all thinking persons who have the real interests of Greece at heart.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 193.

Information.

(Private and Confidential.)

BARBIEUX et Haltorff débarquèrent à Boudova, sans être aucunement molestés par les autorités Autrichiennes, et se rendirent à Celtigné, d'où M. Barbieux, quoique condamné et expulsé de l'Autriche, s'est rendu à plusieurs reprises à Cattaro sans que personne lui ait interdit le passage. Des sergents de gendarmerie de Castelnuovo demandèrent même des nouvelles de Barbieux et Haltorff à M. Wedel et lui dirent qu'ils avaient ordre de les arrêter, mais que personne l'aurait fait. Ces gendarmes ainsi que la plupart des fonctionnaires Autrichiennes, appartiennent à la race Slave et sont toujours disposés à favoriser la cause de leurs frères.

M. Barbieux, pendant le temps qu'il sejourna à Corfou, a correspondu toujours sous le nom de Boivin avec M. Yonin, Consul-Général de Russie à Raguse, relativement à l'affaire de canons et munitions par le chiffre officiel du Consulat-Général de Russie à Corfou et dont le titulaire est M. Jadowsky.

M. Jadowsky a payé à Barbieux (Boivin), pour le compte du Consul-Général de Russie à Raguse, l'indemnisation de 500 fr. dûs à un capitaine dont M. Paramithotty avait frété le navire pour faire débarquer les canons à Spitza.

M. Yonin est retourné de Vienne à Raguse le 18 Juin (vieux style) accompagné de deux Secrétaires, emportant 400,000 roubles. Puis il partit pour Grahovo, où se trouvait le Prince de Montenegro et où il restera, d'après son dire, en qualité de Chargé d'Affaires. Un des deux Secrétaires se rendra bientôt à St. Pétersbourg. M. Yonin tout dernièrement

fournit à Raguse les frais de voyage à quatre officiers Russes qui se rendirent en Serbie. Il amena avec lui et aux frais de son Gouvernement, en qualité de correspondant officieux, M. Monteverde, ancien Capitaine de la Garde Impériale de Russie connu pour ses tendances Panslavistes et qui depuis huit mois publie ses correspondances très-acharnées contre la Turquie dans la Gazette "Rouskinir" sous le pseudonom de "Setroff." M. Monteverde a été toujours l'Agent de M. Yonin et l'instrument des chefs de l'insurrection.

Les autorités Autrichiennes ont reçu l'ordre de laisser librement passer et sans inspection par les ports de Risano, Perasto, et Cattaro toute marchandise à destination de Monténégro. Ainsi 500 sacs de biscuits ont été débarqués Mercredi passé (le 5 Juillet) à Perasto.

1,500 à 2,000 Bocchesi (habitants des Bocche di Cattaro), armés de fusil, revolver, et yatagan, partirent pour Monténégro.

M. Boivin (Barbieux) a obtenu de M. Zinopulos (sous-Secrétaire du Ministère de l'Intérieur en Athènes), qui prit connaissance de l'affaire des canons, &c., l'exemption de tout droit de magasinage pour six mois pour les marchandises, &c.

M. de Krause, correspondant de "l'Agence Wolff," à Raguse, crénture Slave, est au solde de M. Yonin.

Il n'y a pas de Comité Panslaviste, proprement dit, à Corfou, ne fût ce que les agissements de MM. Georges Paramitiotty, Idromenos, Psilianos, ex-Vice-Consul de Grèce à Saïda, Nicolas Aspiotti, et surtout de M. Jadowsky, Consul-Général de Russie à Corfou, qui a tout dernièrement fourni les frais de voyage à tous les Monténégrins qui sont venus d'Odessa et Constantinople et qui sont rentrés dans leurs foyers.

M. Wedel a reçu aujourd'hui (8 Juillet) la nouvelle que Barbieux fut arrêté à Cattaro.

No. 194.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 545. Confidential.)

Paris, July 14, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes said to me this morning that he had learned with satisfaction that the arrangement made at Reichstadt was that no further steps should be taken without a previous confidential communication between the Christian Powers. He observed that the word confidential implied that there would be previous communications between the Powers before any invitation to a Conference was issued. He thought this extremely desirable, and he should, he said, view with serious apprehension any meeting of a Conference which should not be preceded by some preliminary understanding as to the basis of the arrangements to be made.

The Duke mentioned to me that your Lordship had communicated to him, through the Marquis d'Harcourt, a copy of a note which you had addressed to Count Schouvaloff in answer to a despatch from Prince Gortchakow on the Eastern question. He said that he was much gratified by this proof of your Lordship's confidence. He added that as Prince Gortchakow's despatch had not been communicated to him by the Russian Government, it was only from your Lordship's answer that he had been able to form an idea of its contents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 195.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received July* 15.)

Vienna, July 15, 1876, 3:30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN consequence of a demand of the Government, the Prince of Montenegro has sent back to their homes the Austrian subjects from Cattaro who had joined his forces.

Their number is said here not to have exceeded 200 or 300.

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* Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Rome, Constantinople, and St. Petersburgh.

No. 196.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received July* 15.)

Vienna, July 15, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

BY instructions from Constantinople the Turkish Ambassador remonstrated to-day, at an interview with Count Andrassy, against the closing of Klek as a violation of the rights of the Porte, and as an unfriendly act to encourage the annexation of the Herzegovina to Montenegro.

No. 197.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.†—(*Received July* 15.)

Vienna, July 15, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram reporting Turkish remonstrance against the closing of Klek, Count Andrassy alleged that the measure was necessary for maintaining the tranquillity of the frontier, which might be disturbed by conflicts between Montenegrins now near that port, and Turkish troops disembarking.

A telegram received to-day reports probability of an action between garrison and Montenegrins, and of Turkish ships of war in the Gulf having fired on the latter on the 13th instant.

No. 198.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, July 15, 1876, 4:15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I THINK it would be advisable that you should send one of the Secretaries of the Embassy, or else Vice-Consul Wrench to accompany Mr. Dupuis in visiting the localities and reporting on the alleged Bulgarian atrocities.

No. 199.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 328. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, July 15, 1876.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated to me to-day, confidentially, the telegrams, of which copies are inclosed, which he had received upon the subject of the closing of the port of Klek.‡ After reading them he inquired what was the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to this step of the Austro-Hungarian Government. As I had not then received the telegrams from your Excellency which arrived later in the day, I confined myself to stating that I was not sufficiently acquainted with the reasons which had induced the Imperial Government to close the port, but that I would make inquiries on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 200.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 329.)

Foreign Office, July 15, 1876.

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador has made a further communication to me as to what passed at the meeting between the Emperors of Austria and Russia at Reichstadt.

The substance of what was formally agreed upon at the meeting had already been repeated to me by Count Beust, as stated in my despatch No. 325 of the 10th instant. In

* Repeated to Berlin, Rome, Constantinople, and St. Petersburgh.

† Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Rome, Constantinople, and St. Petersburgh.

‡ Nos. 174 and 175.

order to guard against any erroneous impressions, Count Beust said he wished to add that upon other questions, such as what should be done if Servia were to be defeated, &c., there had been discussions which might serve as a basis for a future agreement, but that speaking generally, there had been no transactions in writing, and that it would be a mistake to suppose that anything at all approaching to a definite arrangement had been arrived at.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 201.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 15, 1876.*

OPINION of Austrian Government that the closing of Klek will cause little prejudice to Turkey is not shared here.

It is expected, on the contrary, to add immensely to the difficulty of combating the insurgents.

About 800 Montenegrins have left this by Austrian steamer to join their countrymen.

No. 202.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 15, 1876.*

I HAVE sent following to Athens:—Confidential. I learn on good authority that if it should be proposed that the present complications shall be settled by concessions to Servia and Montenegro, Greece is resolved to put forward a claim for extension of frontier.

General Ignatieff, who encourages this pretension, insinuates that Greece, in order to be entitled to consideration at a European Conference, must take part in the present struggle.

No. 203.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 160.) *Athens, July 8, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 151 of the 29th ultimo, and to previous despatches on the same subject, I have the honour to inclose, herewith, translations of extracts from the newspapers "Ephimeris" and "Stoa," of yesterday's date, relative to the reported purchase of arms in Germany by the Hellenic Government.

The "Ephimeris" states that the Government have purchased 30,000 rifles and ten guns, and the "Stoa" reports that 400,000 francs have been sent to Berlin for the purchase of rifles and ammunition, but that nothing has been decided with regard to guns, though an advantageous offer has been made by Bavaria.

I was informed yesterday that the Chassepôts at first offered to the Hellenic Government have been found to be in too bad a condition, and that the needle gun has been chosen instead; I cannot, however, vouch for the accuracy of this statement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 203.

Extract from the "Stoa" of July 7, 1876.

(Translation.)

THE Government have finally decided to purchase the arms (Chassepôts) on sale at Berlin. 400,000 fr. have been sent to the Committee, composed of MM. Manos, Sapontzinos and Pournara, for the purchase of rifles (at 17½ fr. each) and of ammunition.

Nothing further has been decided as yet to the purchase of guns, though an advantageous offer has been made by Bavaria.

Extract from the "Ephemeris" of July 7, 1876.

(Translation.)

It is said, and also written in the papers, that M. Manos has bought at Berlin, in the name of the Hellenic Government, 30,000 rifles and ten guns, which are shortly to be sent here. Everyone approves this, because under all circumstances, even in peace, Greece requires arms, especially in the times in which we live. Nor can this action be characterized as a deviation from our adopted policy, which public opinion admits and the Government has accepted subject to necessity.

No. 203*.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 162. Very Confidential.) *Athens, July 9, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE German Chargé d'Affaires spoke to me yesterday of the possibility of the Greeks making common cause with the Christians in Turkey against the Government of the Porte, and he expressed astonishment that the inhabitants of Thessaly and Epirus had not already commenced an insurrection, adding that all our appeals to the Hellenic Government in favour of a pacific attitude would be in vain if the people of Greece were bent upon a policy of aggression, that foreign Governments would be powerless to prevent it, and that, moreover, neither Russia nor Germany would endeavour to do so.

I replied that I hoped at any rate no one would connect the Greeks to resort to hostilities, that in 1854 they had conducted themselves in such a manner in the Turkish Provinces bordering upon Greece that the people of those Provinces could hardly desire their assistance again, and that whatever they might do in a hostile sense would probably result in the revival of brigandage and in a national bankruptcy.

I also said that "in the event of Greece attacking Turkey, I did not know what the policy of Her Majesty's Government might be; but that, Greece being an independent State, I did not think that foreign Powers were bound by the Treaty of Paris of 1856 not to interfere, as they were with regard to a vassal State such as Servia.

I have remarked within the last few days that the German Chargé d'Affaires has apparently taken a much greater interest in Eastern affairs, and the Turkish Minister says that he has also remarked it, and he told me yesterday that M. de Hirschfeld had expressed to him the hope that the Government of the Porte would act with moderation in Servia, as Germany could not forget that the Servians were friends of a friend of Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 204.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—Received July 16.)

Vienna, July 16, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

M. MONSON telegraphs:—

"Montenegrin army claims to have occupied plain of Gatzko, save redoubts with about 2,000 men who are blockaded; rest of army marching on Nevesinje. I do not consider this success very important. Company of Turks day before yesterday fell into ambuscade near Klek, thirteen prisoners sent here by Montenegrins; also forty-two of latter wounded, who are, I am told, to be forwarded to Cettigné—can hardly believe this."

No. 205.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 75. Political.)

Ragusa, July 5, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the Proclamation addressed by the Prince of Montenegro to his subjects, declaring war against Turkey, and of His Highness' Proclamation to the Herzegovinians upon the same occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 205.

[For Translation of the Proclamation, see Inclosure in No. 223.]

No. 206.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 76. Political.)

Ragusa, July 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two telegrams received by the Turkish Consul-General here from Mostar, respecting the fighting at Berlina; and of one from the Governor-General of Albania to the same gentleman in reply to his question whether it was true that some of the Latin villages had joined the insurgents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 206.

Telegrams received by Turkish Consul-General from Mostar and Scutari, July 5, 1876.

(1.)—*Ali Pasha à Danish Effendi.*

Mostar, le 5 Juillet, 1876, 4 P.M.

LE Maréchal, par son télégramme en date d'hier, nous apprend que les troupes régulières Serbes ayant franchi la frontière du côté de Berlina dans la journée du 3 Juillet, attaquent nos forces consistant en ce point en un bataillon et demi. Le combat dura jusqu'au soir. La résistance énergique opposée par les troupes Impériales obligèrent nos ennemis à se réfugier dans les retranchements élevés au bord de la rivière, après avoir laissé sur le champ de bataille 200 morts et 250 fusils. Le nombre de blessés monte au double de celui des morts. Dans la matinée du 4, les Serbes, voyant que les postes importants sont occupés par les troupes Impériales, n'ont pas osé s'aventurer dans un engagement sérieux; il n'y a donc eu qu'un petit combat à la suite duquel nos ennemis se retirent de nouveau en laissant deux morts sur le champ du combat. Des forces importantes sont dirigées sur ce point.

(Signé) ALI.

(2.)—*Le même au même.*

Mostar, le 5 Juillet, 1876, 6 P.M.

Je reçois à l'instant détails suivants sur l'affaire de Berlina. Les pertes des Serbes montent à 200 morts dans les quartiers de la ville, 700 dans les environs. Quatre chevaux d'artillerie tués. Les autorités Impériales ont donné la sépulture aux morts. On compte parmi eux un des commandants, plusieurs officiers, secrétaires, et porte-étendards. Un drapeau est resté entre les mains de l'armée Impériale. Les troupes Impériales comptent 26 morts, 59 blessés. Les habitants de Berlina 14 morts, 20 blessés. Douze chevaux de cavallerie tués, 26 blessés. On annonce que dans la nuit du 4, les troupes ennemies ont abandonées leurs positions pour reculer au delà de le frontière.

(Signé) ALI.

(3.)—*Ahmed Hamdy Pasha à Danish Effendi.*

Scutari, le 5 Juillet, 1876, 6 P.M.

Pas de villages Latins, pas même un seul Latin n'accepterait à se joindre aux insurgés Monténégrins. Les hommes des montagnes appelés aux armes s'élèvent jusqu'aujourd'hui à plus de 8,000, moitié Musulmans et moitié Catholique. Ceux qui arriveront ces jours-ci sont tous Latins, et il se rendent au camp avec un enthousiasme qui ne s'est jamais vu.

(Signé) AHMED HAMDY.

No. 207.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 77. Political.)

Ragusa, July 7, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Slav telegrams received at Ragusa last night and this morning flatly contradict the news given in those from Mostar, copies of which were inclosed in my No. 76, Political, of yesterday, respecting the Turkish successes at Berlina.

Of the movements of the Montenegrin forces, we have at this moment no certain information. It would seem that Prince Nikita is advancing into the Herzegovina from Banjani, and it was reported that a division of his army would march upon Trebigné and Mostar, neither of which towns would be able to offer much resistance, as the bulk of the Turkish troops seem to have been withdrawn by Moukhtar Pasha to the eastern frontier. A second Montenegrin division is said to be directed towards Novi-Bazaar, to create a diversion in favour of the Servians on their southern frontier, while a third will remain near Podgoritza to check any advance of the troops from Albania into the Principality.

I have no doubt that several thousand Austrian subjects from Crivoscia and the Bocche di Cattaro have joined the Montenegrin army, and I have been told by an eye-witness of the Prince's departure from Cettigné that the Montenegrins under His Highness' immediate command are well drilled, well equipped, and, it is unnecessary to add, overflowing with enthusiasm.

The Austrian military authorities here, who, as regards their sentiments, are never Turcophils, profess to have certain information that the numbers of the Turkish forces in the field are largely exaggerated. Were this not the case, they say that neither Servia nor Montenegro would ever have run the risk of declaring war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 208.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 110. Confidential.)

Buda-Pest, July 12, 1876.

My Lord,

M. WACKER-GOTTER, the German Consul-General, has returned here from Kissingen, and, having been entrusted with a message from Prince Bismarck to Count Andrassy, had an interview with his Excellency before his departure for Reichstadt.

M. Wäcker-Gotter is of opinion that an expectant attitude will be maintained, and no positive engagements entered into between the three Emperors in the Oriental question. He also informed me that Prince Bismarck interested himself in learning what the Magyars were doing and thinking.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 209.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 312.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 12, 1876.*

M. DE GIERS, in reply to my inquiry yesterday, stated that the meeting of the Emperors at Reichstadt had gone off very satisfactorily.

He observed that the time was too short to admit of any questions of detail being taken into consideration, but that it had been mutually agreed by the two Emperors and their Ministers to maintain the principle of non-intervention in the war between Servia and Montenegro and the Porte, and to concert with the other Great Powers whenever a favourable moment should appear for terminating the struggle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 210.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 264.)
My Lord, *Rome, July 13, 1876.*

I INFORMED M. Melegari, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to-day that I had read his speech made in the Senate on the 11th with great attention, and that I should be glad to know whether the report of it in the "Opinione" newspaper might be taken as correct.

His Excellency replied that it was the most complete, and that it was correct in a general way without being so minutely. He said that the speech had created a very good effect both in the Senate and beyond it; that the events in the East had caused much apprehension throughout Italy, and that the calming account which he had been able to give had been most welcome. With regard to that part of the speech relating to the understanding come to between the Powers that neither Montenegro nor Servia should suffer in their constitutional relations with the Porte, although they might be defeated in war, his Excellency said that there was clearly a general understanding that Europe would unite in securing the preservation of these States, that Turkey would never be allowed, whatever might be her success in arms, to reduce them to vilayets, and that, on the contrary, the Christian Powers would certainly unite not only to preserve Servia and her ally, but also to ameliorate the conditions under which the revolted provinces had hitherto lived.

His Excellency said that in beginning the war Servia had known that whatever the future might have in store for her, she was sure of neither being shorn of privileges or territory, and that all she would have to suffer would be the misery of the bloodshed and destruction which must result from battle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 211.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 472. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 13, 1876.*

I YESTERDAY had the honour to report to your Lordship, by telegraph, that the Gulf of Klek has been closed, and that the transmission of munitions of war through Cattaro to Montenegro has been prohibited.

If it be true as reported in yesterday's and to-day's telegrams from Dalmatia, that the country round Klek has been occupied by the insurgents, the closing of the Gulf can have no very prejudicial influence on the military operations of the Turks, and it is held here that if the Gulf was left open, and the Montenegrin and insurgent forces were to gain possession of the port, they might claim that it should remain so.

In speaking to-day to Baron Hofmann of the principles of non-intervention and neutrality, in virtue of which these measures have been adopted, I observed that unless packages landed at Cattaro for Montenegro under the Geneva Cross are carefully examined,

munitions of war may still find their way to Cettigné, inasmuch as Major Gosse, on his way from thence, met from 200 to 300 mules, with stores marked with the Geneva Cross, at a time when 30 mule-loads might have amply supplied, for several months, for the requirements of the ambulances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 212.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 473.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 13, 1876.*

I AM informed that General Stratomovevics, who, after a defeat at Ak Palanka, quarrelled with General Tchernaieff and came to Belgrade, having called upon Prince Wredo, stated to him that the campaign on the part of Servia was being carried on on a false principle, and could not possibly succeed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 213.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(No. 316.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 15, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 508 of the 5th instant, instructing me to take the earliest opportunity of placing in Prince Bismarck's hands copies of your Lordship's despatches Nos. 378, 393, and 396 to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, and of your Lordship's note to Count Schouvaloff of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to state that as I passed through Kissingen on my way to Berlin, I left the copies inclosed in your Lordship's despatch with His Highness, who is residing there at present for the benefit of his health.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 214.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July 17.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le 5 Juillet, 1876.*

POUR faire suite aux précédentes communications de mon Département, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, pour votre information personnelle, copie du télégramme adressé par le Prince du Monténégro à son Altesse le Grand Vézir pour annoncer le commencement des hostilités, et dont j'ai fait mention dans ma dépêche télégraphique du 2 courant.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 214.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le 2 Juillet, 1876.*

J'AI reçu le 25 courant le télégramme de votre Altesse du même jour, et je la remercie des expressions obligeantes qu'il contient. Je vois avec satisfaction que la Sublime Porte est disposée à apprécier avec plus de justice ma conduite dans les affaires de l'insurrection Herzégovinienne. Je regrette de ne pouvoir accueillir avec le même sentiment les assurances que votre Altesse me donne au sujet des mesures agressives et vexatoires dont je me plaignais par ma dépêche du 13 courant.

Votre Altesse a été non-seulement mal-informée, mais positivement trompée, par les agents qui ont prétendu la renseigner et qui désobéissent à ses volontés.

Le blocus, pour n'avoir pas été formellement notifié, n'existe pas moins dans toute sa rigueur. Pour quelques Monténégrins que, pour des raisons personnelles, on laisse passer, on en repousse un grand nombre à la frontière. Ceux qui se rendent par le lac à Scutari sont empêchés de débarquer ou expulsés. Les localités de Limanlik, d'Antivari, leur sont également enterdites, la sortie des vivres de toute nature rigoureusement défendue, ce qui ne peut être motivé par une rareté de grains qui n'existe pas; d'autant plus que, si cette raison avait été vraie, la prohibition aurait été annoncée d'avance, comme le veulent l'usage et les bons rapports. Du reste, ce ne sont pas les substances seules dont la sortie est empêchée; il en est de même des matières brutes et des objets manufacturés, de toutes les marchandises dont nos montagnards ont le besoin et l'habitude de s'approvisionner en Albanie. Quant aux concentrations de forces, votre Altesse a également reçu de faux rapports.

Pour ne citer que deux examples: cinq jours avant l'envoi de votre télégramme, un camp d'une brigade a été installé à une demie-heure de ma frontière sur la rive occidentale du Lac de Scutari. En outre, il ne peut échapper à votre Altesse quelle signification stratégique nous devons donner à l'intention fermellement exprimée d'exclure le district Niksich de tout armistice éventuel. Tout en apprenant avec satisfaction que les faits signalés sont, sauf le dernier, indépendants de la volonté de votre Gouvernement, je dois dire franchement à votre Altesse que nous ne nous sentons pas rassurés. Le peuple Monténégrin sait qu'il est par le seul fait de son indépendance en butte à des inimitiés que son anéantissement pourrait seul satisfaire; et l'expérience du passé lui fait reconnaître les signes précurseurs des précédentes invasions. Je ne peux pas faire autrement que de partager sa conviction, car je sais très-bien que, si je n'ai pas été attaqué il y a deux mois, ce n'est pas à la modération seule du dernier Gouvernement que je le dois.

D'autre part, Altesse, si, en mentionnant les sacrifices de tout genre que la guerre d'Herzégovine nous impose, je me suis abstenu de parler des sentiments avec lesquels nous y assistons, c'est que je n'avais pas à vous apprendre que nos sympathies sont avec nos coreligionnaires qui, quoique séparés de nous politiquement, sont en fait nos compatriotes par le sang, par la langue, par les mœurs, et par les malheurs communs du passé. Malgré cela, résistant aux sollicitations et aux entraînements, je me suis attaché à remplir mes devoirs internationaux; quand les Puissances, en se chargeant de plaider auprès de Sa Majesté le Sultan la cause des Chrétiens, m'ont demandé de garder la neutralité, je pris l'engagement et je l'ai tenu. Il est inutile de revenir sur le détail des tentatives de pacifications successives sauf pour rappeller que j'y ai aidé de tout mon pouvoir, et qu'avec l'agrément des Puissances j'ai accepté le mandat de représenter les insurgés dans les négociations. De tout ce qui s'est fait pour le rétablissement de la paix, il n'est résulté qu'une chose: la démonstration de l'impossibilité absolue pour la Sublime Porte, malgré la sincérité reconnue de ses bonnes intentions, de donner à ses sujets des provinces insurgées les institutions et les garanties qui seules pourraient se concilier avec leurs aspirations légitimes et le temps où nous vivons; mais, par la nature de ma coopération aux essais de pacification, comme par le vœu général des populations, il m'a été donné des droits et imposé des devoirs qui me dictent ce que j'ai à faire.

La démarche même que votre Altesse veut bien faire auprès de moi est une preuve de plus que les circonstances sont plus fortes que les volontés pacifiques des Gouvernements. Aussi, en présence des dangers croissants qui par la force des choses menacent mon pays, en présence de la guerre sans résultat qui désole des contrées qui ont droit à mon secours, je me vois dans l'absolue nécessité de prendre sans délai ultérieur une résolution décisive. Avec un profond chagrin d'être réduit à cette extrémité et la conviction que la Sublime Porte, si elle l'avait pu, aurait autant que moi désiré l'écarter, je viens annoncer à votre Altesse que la situation équivoque des relations toujours tendues fera place dès aujourd'hui à la situation plus nette des hostilités déclarées.

No. 215.

*The Earl of Derby to Vice-Consul Dupuis.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

I HAVE requested Sir H. Elliot to send some one from Embassy to accompany you in visiting scenes of alleged atrocities, as it is necessary that the Embassy should be informed, and there should be some one at Constantinople who can speak from personal knowledge.

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* Repeated to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 216.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 441.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1876.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have read with much interest Mr. Consul Blunt's despatch to you, No. 35 of the 26th ultimo, reporting on the present system of administration in Bosnia, and expressing his opinion that a total change is the only means by which the promised reforms and progress in civilization will have any chance of being realized.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 217.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 17, 1876.

GENERAL IGNATIEW has received information that the Montenegrins are in possession of Klek.

No. 218.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received July* 17, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 17, 1876.

A PASHA of high position has been sent as Extraordinary Commissioner to put a stop to the excesses in Bulgaria, and with full powers to inflict summary punishment.

No. 219.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 17, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, July* 17, 1876.

THERE is great alarm at Mostar. The enemy surround Nevesinje, which is indefensible. Garrison of Gatzko holds out. Klek is surrounded. Turkish troops concentrating at Mostar, with Commander-in-chief, who will, I hope, be able to hold his own until reinforced.

3,000 men from Cattaro are said to have entered the Herzegovina.

News from Servian frontier continue [ ] favourable to the Turks.

At Bi—h 5,000 men are said to have entered Bosnia from Austria.

No. 220.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.†—(*Received July* 17, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic. *Vienna, July* 17, 1876.

WHEN I saw Count Andrassy to-day he had received no communication from Italian Ambassador respecting Klek.

The Ambassador, whom I could not find, may possibly have spoken to Baron Hofmann on the subject. Count Andrassy has sent papers respecting it to Count Beust for communication to your Lordship. He says that Porte has only to send sufficient forces to Cettigné by Scutari and Antivari to force retreat of Prince of Montenegro.

With reference to renewal of report of intended annexation of Bosnia to Austria, he said that the Franciscans had prepared a memorial to the Porte declaring the unwillingness of Catholics to become Servian, and their desire to remain Ottoman subjects, and if the Servian arms were successful that reforms alone should take (place ?).

* Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Rome.

† Repeated to Berlin, Rome, Constantinople, and St. Petersburgh.

but the people to whom it was submitted erazed the alternative of reforms as impracticable, and substituted annexation to Austria. This memorial, he understood, has gone to Constantinople. He considers the campaign to have failed, but hopes the Turks will send sufficient forces from Widdin and Nisch to render Servian defeat more complete.

No. 221.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No 78. Political.)

Ragusa, July 9, 1876.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH a week has elapsed since the declaration of war by Prince Nikita, no serious collision has yet taken place between the Turks and the Montenegrins. As far I am able to ascertain the Prince himself, with the bulk of his army, is hurrying to the Eastern frontier of the Herzegovina to join that division of the Servian army which is threatening Novi-Bazar. I believe that he is accompanied by his father-in-law, Voukotich, a veteran of the last war, who has the reputation of some military talent, and who, during the last twelve months, has been at Grahowo, directing from Montenegrin soil, and with the advice of some Russian officers, the operations of the insurgents.

If this intelligence is correct the threatened advance upon Trebinje and Mostar was but a feint, intended probably to arrest Moukhtar Pasha and his troops in their march towards Servia; but this feint does not seem to have succeeded.

It is also reported this morning that the Austrians are reinforcing their detachments in the neighbourhood of Klek, and if this is the case I imagine that they have information of the chances of a collision between the Turks and the Herzegovinian insurgents in that direction, and are taking precautions to prevent any violation of Austrian territory by either party.

I must ask your Lordship's indulgence if my reports upon military movements are meagre.

I have hitherto been careful to write only what I have good reason to believe correct, and have invariably on this ground rejected three-fourths of the information which reaches me, and which is in most cases manufactured by the newspaper correspondents, who are ready to telegraph any sensational lie that is mentioned in their hearing. But as every source of information, official and private, Turkish and Slavophil, is amenable to the influence of interest, passion, or sentiment, it is not easy to discriminate the truth, and I can by no means vouch for the thorough accuracy of my reports upon the movements of the Montenegrins, in spite of my anxiety to chronicle none but well ascertained facts.

I hear that M. Yonine, the Russian Consul-General, has left the Montenegrin camp, and is expected to arrive at Ragusa this afternoon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 222.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 79. Political. Confidential.)

Ragusa, July 9, 1876.

My Lord,

LARGE sums of money continue to be sent from Russia for the use of M. Yonine. Three Russian bills of exchange upon Baring Brothers for the aggregate sum of 9,000*l.*, to the order of M. Yonine, were sent by him last week to Trieste for negotiation. The money was despatched from Trieste by yesterday's steamer to Ragusa. I have this fact from unimpeachable authority; and although, of course, it would be alleged that this large sum will be disbursed for the refugees, I have myself no doubt that it will be expended, as more than half of the money received from Russia has hitherto been expended, namely in aid of the combatants and not of the exiles.

The statements so repeatedly made by the Russian press, that Her Majesty's Government has supplied the Turkish authorities in the Herzegovina with money and arms, find unlimited credence here, in spite of my reiterated references to the declarations made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the sitting of the House of Commons on the 27th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 223.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 80. Political.)

Ragusa, July 10, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translations of the Proclamations issued by Prince Nikita to the Montenegrins and Herzegovinians, the original Slav texts of which were transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 75 of the 5th instant. Severe indisposition has prevented my finishing these translations before to-day.

The style of the Proclamation is bombastic, and full of vain repetitions, but I presume that the language is well suited to the semi-barbarous hordes of mountain brigands to whom it is addressed.

The Proclamation to the Montenegrins seems to me interesting only in the paragraph in which the Prince adverts to the previous complicity of his subjects in the insurrection, and that to the Herzegovinians only in the paragraph which threatens the Mussulmans who do not choose to make humble submission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 223.

Proclamation to the Montenegrins.

(Translation.)

Montenegrins!

IT is now five centuries that Turkish violence has been oppressing our nation, and ruining the fairest provinces of the ancient Serb Empire. Many a time has our nation risen to shake off the chains of slavery; but weakened anew, overpowered, and abandoned, she has again sunk under the bonds of barbarian domination. A year ago our nation arose with the cry "Liberty or death!" The insurrection began in the Herzegovina, extended to Bosnia and to Bulgaria, whose peoples are our brethren—Slav in blood, orthodox in religion. Your heroic blood you have already shed, and are still shedding, in the battle-fields of the Herzegovina, for you could not look on your brethren without flying to their aid, although I, from international motives, have been obliged to prevent you from joining them *en masse*. Individually you have done your duty. Liberty will celebrate the dead and praise the living heroes! The moment has now come when united we can fulfil our duty. The flag of liberty, which after Kosovo has always waved proudly over our mountains, was not only the banner of Montenegrin freedom, but the signal of the future liberty and independence of the whole nation. Our subjugated brethren have always regarded Montenegro as the sun which will one day warm them into life by the fervour of its rays of liberty.

And now, my heroes, the important moment has arrived when the hopes of Montenegro may be realized and the desires of our brethren granted. We are called to arms against the Turk by our own aspirations and by the sacred duty towards brethren who are desperately fighting to deliver themselves from a condition insupportable, horrible, unworthy of creatures made in the Divine image.

Moreover, Turkey herself forces you to war. The European Powers did their best to obtain better conditions and restore peace; and I also sacrificed myself so far as to proffer my aid. Turkey, however, not only made every effort vain, but in all the insurgent countries showed herself more truculent, and the barbarity of Turkish fanaticism showed itself illimitable. What more? The Porte took against Montenegro herself repressive measures, threatening our free civil existence, and the inviolability of our small country.

Our honour and our safety demand that we should no longer bear this state of things. Full of faith in our just, holy, and national cause, and in the aid of God, confident in your enthusiasm and valour, I proclaim to you the beginning of strife against the Turk in a war most holy and just—a war for liberty and for the union of the nation inhumanly overwhelmed during centuries by Turkish violence.

I place myself to-day at the head of the valorous Montenegrin army, whose innumerable glorious victories, sacrifices, and heroism, history will ever celebrate. I do not doubt that under my guidance you will show yourselves worthy of your valorous predecessors, for you will never for a moment forget our firm, united resolution—"the liberation and union of the nation."

We shall some of us fall, for great ends require great sacrifices; but he who falls will

live again, for the nation which he has helped to free will ever make his name illustrious. But with the aid of Heaven we shall also triumph. We are no longer alone. Our sister Servia has hoisted the same flag. Our common efforts will be accompanied by the sympathies of the whole civilized world, which condemns barbarity, and desires our success, in order that the way may be opened to liberty, civilization, and the well-being of our lands—lands blessed by God and desolated by the Turk!

In our combat will assist by moral aid not only every Serb wherever he may be, not only your neighbours the Croats, who so long have encouraged the idea of reciprocal Panslavism, but also millions of Slav brethren in happier circumstances. With such fraternal aid your courage and heroism will become invincible. Under favourable conditions we to-day begin the fight against the Turk. Yet one thing more have I to say. Show yourselves in war even more generous than in peace. Spare where you can. Receive with open arms your Mahomedan brethren wheresoever you find them. They are of our blood. Among them are the descendants of ancient glorious warriors, men of ours whom force, necessity, and error have alienated from their ancestral faith. From those who give us their hand let not religion separate us. We will be brothers, and will live fraternally with them.

I have no more to say. I care not to encourage you. Your heroic breasts are, as I well know, swelled with the desire to revenge the day of Kosovo, to resuscitate the liberty of the Serb nation so long entombed. I need not impress upon you order and obedience, for you have always given proofs of these soldierlike qualities. Nor will I repeat the invitation of Kuez Lazar—"Who will not come to the battle of Kosovo?" There is no need of this, for you will all come, I am assured. Formerly there was discord; to-day there is harmony.

Murad conquered our Empire; from Murad must the Empire be torn!

Cettigné, St. Vitus Day, 1876.

(Signed) NICHOLAS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 223.

Proclamation to the People of the Herzegovina.

(Translation.)

Herzegovinians!

PROMPTED by Divine Providence, by my own sentiments, and those of my small but free and chivalrous State, by fraternal love for you, and by the desire that the Serb people may become free and united, a desire that I have inherited from my ancestors, and that I have never ceased to encourage, I enter the Herzegovina to sever the chains of slavery which for centuries have bound you.

Herzegovinians! I am convinced that I am thus fulfilling also your own most sincere desire. You have always given me to understand that in your life of martyrdom your only hope is in the day when I shall come to emancipate you from the Mussulman yoke, by fighting with you against the violence of the Turks.

Herzegovinians! The wished-for day has at last arrived—a day which, if God will, will be for us a happy one—a day in which begins the strife that is to set you free. Heroism, concord, and obedience will ensure success. If God will, the Herzegovina shall soon be free, and you also shall taste that liberty of which the Montenegrins have always been able to boast. And you are worthy of it. For you also are heroes, who will give the world majestic examples of heroic strife, and of sacrifice for liberty, as you have always done, and especially in this last year, when you heroically began to shake the Turkish Empire, and acquired the esteem of the whole civilized and liberal world. In the Herzegovina have I always seen the flower of the Serbian people, which for five centuries has resisted annihilation at the hands of the most savage barbarism. From this springs that beautiful and characteristic Serb proverb, "The Herzegovina has peopled the world, and has not depopulated herself!"

Herzegovinians! Lose not for a moment your courage. God is merciful and just, and sacred is the cause for which we fight. We shall be conquerors. I am with you. Every Montenegrin is with you. Together we will share every difficulty, and the chances of life and death; forward, then.

Herzegovinians! forward! Follow me, and the Montenegrin standards, witnesses of so many and such glorious battles—of so many Turkish defeats. Under Turkish violence you have suffered inexpressible wrongs which I have always felt in my inmost soul. Nevertheless, in your present liberty, do not revenge yourselves on your brethren of the

Mahommedan religion. I pray that you may be inspired by the spirit of fraternity and of pacification.

Herzegovinian Mahometans! All that I have now said to your Christian brethren is equally applicable to you. The period when your ancestors embraced the Mahommedan faith, and enjoyed exceptional rights, has long gone by. Gradually the Turk deprived you of all this, and you have already begun to experience their tyrannical oppression. If this happy moment had not arrived, you also in a short time would be Rajas of the Turks, as are the Christians.

Mahommedans! In spite of your religion, you are our brothers, for in your veins runs the Serb blood. Therefore, I come to free you as well as the Christians. In the free Herzegovina you shall be free, you shall live free. The law shall be equal and just to all. Your religion shall be as inviolable as a sanctuary. I guarantee you this, and of my impartiality are witnesses 20,000 of your co-religionists, who live on my territory, and who have ever experienced from me fraternal treatment, help, and distinction. I invite you, then, not to take up arms against your Christian brethren. If you cannot, as yet, fight by the side of your Christian brethren against the Turk, your common enemy, I ask you to remain quiet. In that case, your life and property will be safe from all attack and detriment. If you do not act thus, and if every tribe does not by its chiefs assure me that it will remain quiet and submissive, I shall be reluctantly obliged to treat you as enemies. I do not anticipate anything of the kind. On the contrary, I hope that, among the Herzegovinians, without distinction of religion, fraternal harmony will reign, and that, from this good understanding, liberty and happiness will result and be developed.

Herzegovinians! As the task we have undertaken is grand, so also the magnanimity of the combatants must show itself eminently. These, I call upon you, Herzegovinians and Montenegrins alike, to be noble and magnanimous in the field, and especially that you observe the neutrality of the neighbouring soil of Austria, who is our friend, and of her subjects.

Herzegovinians! To all I say, advance in brotherly concord, and with the enthusiasm of heroes, to whom it is allotted to fight side by side with your Montenegrin brethren for the liberation of your country, that Herzegovina, so rich in glorious memories of the illustrious past—the precious armament of the Serb nation. Come to my standard.

The Herzegovina must be free.

(Signed) NICHOLAS.

No. 224.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 81. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, July* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of telegrams received from Mostar by the Turkish Consul-General here, respecting the fighting, on the 6th instant, between the Turkish force under Mehmed Ali Pasha and the Servian army at Yvor.

The Slav private telegrams continue to deny the truth of the Turkish successes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 224.

Telegrams from Ali Pasha, General of Division at Mostar, to Daniel Effendi, Turkish Consul-General at Ragusa.

Mostar, July 8, 1876, 1·15 P.M.

DANS la matinée du 6 Mehemmed Ali Pacha se met en marche vers Javor sur la frontière Serbe à la tête de neuf bataillons, avec nombre suffisant de pièces d'artillerie. Les troupes impériales attaquent l'armée ennemie composée de 18 bataillons et 10 canons. Le combat s'engagea dans le défilé de Javor et dura depuis deux heures Turques jusqu'à neuf heures. Les Serbes furent obligés de se retirer vers leurs retranchements après avoir perdu 1,500 hommes et un grand nombre d'armes et de chevaux. Le nombre des blessés

égale celui des morts. Les pertes de l'armée Impériale sont relativement très inférieures. L'armée Impériale occupe actuellement le lieu du combat.

Le Général de Division,
(Signé) ALI.

Mostar, July 8, 1876, 6·15 P.M.

Détails reçus à l'instant sur combat de Javor. Pertes des Serbes 1,500, non compris les cadavres transportés : 450 fusils à aiguille, 40 caisses de cartouches, grand nombre de tambours, trompettes, pelles, sabres, et capotes d'officiers abandonné par l'ennemi sur le champ du combat. Nos pertes montent à 50 morts et 187 blessés. L'ennemi à la tête de 24 bataillons marchait sur Senitza pour faire une jonction avec le Monténégro. Des 9 bataillons de l'armée Impériale 7 ont pris part au combat et obligèrent les Serbes à prendre l'offensif dernière les retranchements élevés aux environs d'Yvor. Mehmed Ali Pacha se trouve à Gladanitza à une heure d'Yvor.

Le Général de Division,
(Signé) ALI.

No. 225.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 82. Political.)

Ragusa, July 11, 1876.

My Lord,

I LEARNED yesterday from a Slav source that the bulk of the insurgent army and one Montenegrin corps were concentrating on Gatzko. The movements of the Montenegrins are, however, kept very quiet, and, in spite of my repeated inquiries from persons who certainly ought to know, I can obtain but little trustworthy intelligence respecting them.

General Jovanovics started suddenly for Cattaro on the evening of the 8th. If his mission was to take precautions against the enlistment of Austrian subjects in the Montenegrin army, he has been sent to shut the stable door long after the steed has been stolen, all the able-bodied males of the Bocche and the surrounding districts having departed for the scene of action some days before.

I am told by several persons recently arrived from Cattaro that a regular exodus has taken place from all the country round.

M. Yonine did not remain for more than two or three days in the Montenegrin camp. I have not had any opportunity of conversing with him since his return; but I have been informed confidentially by a mutual friend that he complains of having received from Prince Gortchakow a bitter and undeserved reproach for not having prevented the Montenegrin declaration of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 226.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 474.)

Vienna, July 15, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Monson's Political despatches Nos. 78 and 82, of the 9th and 11th instant, respecting the movements of the Montenegrin army, I understand that, from telegraphic intelligence received by the Government here, there is reason to believe that the Turkish troops will be unable to hold Gatzko, and that the Prince of Montenegro will probably reach Mostar in the course of next week. Moukhtar Pasha is supposed to be concentrating a large force at Serajevo, and calling in the detachments which he left in the Herzegovina.

It is doubted whether the Montenegrins will advance into Bosnia, as Prince Nikita may think it better policy to endeavour to hold the Herzegovina; and the inclosed translation of an article in the official journal published at Cettigné, on the relations of Montenegro with Servia, appears to confirm this view of his intentions. Besides, he must be prepared for the contingency of the Miridites and the Albanians invading the Principality.

I am told that if the Porte were to send back to the Miridites the son of their former Prince it might still secure the active support of that warlike Catholic tribe, which, now holding aloof, greatly distinguished itself during the Crimean war in the defence of Silistria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 226.

Extract from the "Glas Czernagorca."

LE "Glas Czernagorca," journal officielle du Monténégro, publie dans son dernier numéro un article qui jette une vive lumière sur les rapports qui existent entre la Serbie et le Monténégro. Il y est dit :—

"La situation de nos troupes et excellente. Nous voyons accourir sous nos drapeaux, non seulement les Chrétiens soumis au joug des Turcs, mais encore nos frères de Dalmatie et des autres contrées Slaves.

"On voit par là que le caractère de la guerre n'est pas celui d'une lutte entre Monténégrins et Turcs, mais bien entre Chrétiens et Mahommétans, lutte où le Monténégro est appelé à jouer le premier rôle, vu sa position d'Etat indépendant.

"En ce qui concerne les Serbes, nous formions des vœux pour le succès de leurs armes.

"Quant à conclure un Traité avec les Serbes, cela nous est impossible, eu égard à la nature toute différente des rapports qui existent entre la Principauté Serbe et la Turquie.

"Le Monténégro fait réellement la guerre à la Porte qui le reconnait comme belligérant, tandis que la Serbie est un Etat vassal qui ne peut méconnaître ses Traités avec la Porte. Le Prince Nicolas n'est donc pas l'allié de la Serbie dans la guerre qu'il fait à la Turquie; il agit isolément.

"La Serbie peut-être considérée comme l'alliée du Monténégro en ce sens qu'elle affaiblit la Turquie par la lutte qu'elle vient d'engager avec cette Puissance. A ce point de vue tout ennemi de la Porte est notre allié."

No. 227.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 475.)

Vienna, July 15, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose two articles published in the "Correspondance Autrichienne," respecting the closing of the Gulfs of Klek and Cattaro.

I also inclose the translation of an article from yesterday's "Neue Freie Presse," strongly criticizing the closing of Klek, and insinuating that Count Andrassy has either sacrificed the interests of Turkey to Russia, or that he may have been induced to favour the Montenegrin arms in the Herzegovina, by a promise on the part of Russia to sanction the annexation of Bosnia to Austro-Hungary.

It is right, however, to mention that the "Neue Freie Presse," in which several articles have recently appeared hostile to the policy of Count Andrassy, is believed to receive monthly a very considerable subvention from the Porte.

With respect also to the manifestations to which it refers, of the Bosnian Mussulmans and Catholic Rayahs, that they would prefer becoming the subjects of the Emperor Francis Joseph to being annexed to Servia, I inclose a French translation of an article from the "Fremden Blatt," in which this subject is treated, as if, with the most honest intention of maintaining the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, and of doing nothing to promote any movement of an opposite tendency, it might be impossible for Austria-Hungary to reject a spontaneous wish of the Bosnians for annexation to the Empire.

Without attaching much importance to such speculations, the course which things are taking here seems so entirely different from what appeared to have been at one time intended, that any eventualities may occur without exciting surprise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 227.

Extracts from the "Correspondance Autrichienne."

(No. 1.)

AJOUTONS quelques remarques touchant le port de Klek, qui est peut-être déjà fermé en ce moment. La Monarchie Austro-Hongroise, qui a hérité des prérogatives de la République Vénitienne et du Royaume d'Illyrie, est parfaitement fondée à fermer ce port de mer. En effet le port de Klek et les voies qui y donnent accès par mer sont l'objet d'un Traité portant la stipulation de *mare clausum*, aux termes de laquelle les navires Turcs ne peuvent entrer dans le port en question qu'avec l'agrément du Gouvernement de Dalmatie. Le Gouvernement Impérial, conformément au principe strict de non-intervention, et en vue d'observer la plus stricte neutralité, a cru devoir faire fermer le port de Klek et refuser aux Turcs la faculté d'y débarquer des troupes. Cette décision a déjà été notifiée à la Porte.

(No. 2.)

En exécution du principe de la plus stricte non-intervention et en vue du maintien de la neutralité Austro-Hongroise le Gouvernement Impérial a décidé, après avoir déjà ordonné la fermeture du port de Klek, d'interdire le débarquement, respectivement le transit, de matériel de guerre de tout genre (y compris le charbon) pour tous les ports Dalmates. Cette mesure, qui sera exécutée dans le plus bref délai, est une conséquence de la surveillance rigoureuse exercée sur nos frontières et a pour but de couper, sur le territoire Austro-Hongrois, toutes les communications au moyen desquelles les Monténégrins et les insurgés Herzégoviniens pourraient compléter leurs armements. Voilà à quoi se réduit la nouvelle, annoncée hier par nos journaux, de la "fermeture du port de Cattaro." Les navires de commerce de toutes les nations seront admis à la libre pratique après comme avant dans tous les ports Dalmates et, par conséquent, aussi dans celui de Cattaro. La fermeture de ce port est une mesure d'autant moins nécessaire à prendre à l'égard des navires de guerre étrangers que dans le temps les Bouches de Cattaro ont été expressément déclarées par un Décret Impérial un *mare clausum*, où la navigation est interdite aux navires de guerre étrangers à moins d'une autorisation spéciale.

(No. 3.)

Le Fremdenblatt prend acte du bruit que les Bosniaques prépareraient une démonstration contre l'annexion à la Serbie et déclareraient que, le cas échéant, ils préféreraient vivre sous le sceptre Autrichien. Il dit: "Pour une feuille Autrichienne il est bien scabreux de discuter un pareil sujet. Le mouvement annexioniste et le désir d'être réunis au pays de la Couronne des Habsbourgs, tout cela ne laisse pas d'être très-flatteur pour nous; c'est un compliment à l'Autriche dont on reconnaît ainsi la puissance et la force vitale. Il nous est d'autant plus permis de nous réjouir tout innocemment de l'honneur qu'on nous fait que personne, pas même l'ennemi le plus acharné de l'Autriche, n'oserait reprocher à notre Gouvernement d'avoir entretenu ou favorisé l'idée de l'annexion. La ferme volonté de l'Autriche de maintenir l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman, ses traditions, lui défendent de prêter la main à une démarche quelconque qui semblerait favoriser un mouvement révolutionnaire ou pourrait rappeler une politique qui a pour principe l'agrandissement de l'Etat par la réunion des congénères; mais nous n'avons aucun motif de nous opposer à un mouvement, qui s'est produit sans notre concours et dont les promoteurs expriment des sentiments qu'en bons Autrichiens nous ne saurions condamner. Si le mouvement annexioniste survenu en Bosnie est une surprise, on peut en dire autant de l'attitude des Rajahs en général. L'action belliqueuse de la Serbie et du Monténégro dont on attendait, non sans quelques raisons, qu'elle serait le signal du soulèvement instantané de toutes les populations Chrétiennes de la Péninsule des Balkans, n'a pas eu ce résultat jusqu'à présent. L'insurrection s'est plutôt affaiblie, excepté dans quelques districts de la Bulgarie, que fortifiée. On voit aujourd'hui que les différences de race et de nationalité existant entre les populations Slaves méridionales vont beaucoup plus loin qu'on ne l'avait généralement admis. Le fait que pas même les Slaves méridionaux de la Péninsule des Balkans, que réunit pourtant le lien de la parenté nationale, ne peuvent marcher parfaitement d'accord, signifie pour le Panslavisme un échec moral dont il ne se relèvera pas de sitôt."

Inclosure 2 in No. 227.

Translation of an Article from the "Neue Freie Presse" of July 14, 1876.

IT almost appears as if in our official circles they were ashamed of the newest measures and wished them to be made public only by degrees. In our opinion it is already settled that the port of Klek shall remain for the future closed to the Turkish ships. News of such importance, if false, must have been contradicted by the Wiener "Abendpost" of to-day. We have read with unwonted zeal this semi-official organ in which sometimes news of importance are concealed; but we found not a word about the port of Klek—not a line on Eastern affairs generally. We are then justified in the sorrowful conclusion that the "Fremdenblatt" is well informed, that Austria closes to Turkey the only convenient way by which the latter can convey troops, provisions, and munitions, to the Herzegovina. The formal right of Austria to close the port of Klek cannot admit of a doubt. The question is merely whether it is wise to make use of that right just now. Official people put on an earnest look and whisper neutrality. In order to justify politically the closing of the Porte the news is at the same time spread abroad that the port of Cattaro and the adjacent Dalmatian coasts will equally be closed to all ships which carry any kind of war material. Thereby Austria shows her entire impartiality, so say official people, and they repeat such conduct becomes a neutral State. We have evidently forgotten the law of nations and are no longer conversant with it. Until now we had believed that there was only a question of neutrality when two equally-entitled sovereign States were at war. We conceived that one could only be neutral between two Powers fighting with each other, and that in the event of an insurrection in a neighbouring land one never made use of the word neutrality, as the duties of every Government were beforehand clearly defined. Now we are suddenly better informed. Neutrality can also take effect in a struggle between a lawful Government and its rebellious subjects, and shows itself principally by a measure which gives a heavy blow to the neighbouring and friendly Government, and is of incalculable advantage to the insurgents. If this explanation is the correct one, then the officials have every reason for their assertion that the closing of the port of Klek is only a proof of Austrian neutrality.

Herzegovina and Bosnia are only connected with the land behind Turkey by the narrow strip of territory which forms the Pachalik of Novi-Bazar. The Servians have already made frequent attempts upon Novi-Bazar, but hitherto have been always repulsed.

If they succeeded with the assistance of the Montenegrins in carrying the Turkish positions there, so would the Turkish troops in Bosnia and the Herzegovina be entirely cut off and their fate is not difficult to conjecture, as from this time forth they can obtain through Klek neither reinforcements nor provisions. On the other side the conquest of Novi-Bazar will be essentially lightened by the closing of the port of Klek. Until now the insurgents and the Montenegrins, marching into the Herzegovina, had always an attack in the rear to fear if they advanced eastwards. They could never know whether some 1,000 fresh Turkish troops might not be landed at Klek, in order to attack them unexpectedly in the rear. From to-day they are relieved from this anxiety. Neutral Austria covers their base of operations, and it is quite unnecessary of Peko Paulovich to have possessed himself of the land-road from Klek with 6,000 men. According to all probability that excellent Woivode will in a short time now abandon that position, blow a kiss over the frontier, and join the main body.

We must repeat our article of the day before yesterday if we would reckon up the gloomy considerations which press upon us in the face of the vacillations of our Eastern policy. The invisible chain which will henceforth close the harbour of Klek hangs by one end in Reichstadt. There must the latest understanding of neutrality have been arrived at between Prince Gortchakow and Count Andrassy, for the overwhelming arrangement, which will hit the Porte hard enough, comes almost immediately after the meeting of the two Emperors. The transaction is obscure, and we do not venture to give its true meaning. We, therefore, decline to examine the grounds which have decided Austria on hanging as a heavily-laden ship on the tow-line of Russia. We register merely the hardly any longer to be doubted fact that all assurances of the peaceful and quieting character of the Reichstadt interview appear only to be intended to deceive the world as to the docility which has there been shown. An other disquieting symptom also joins itself to the closing of the harbour of Klek. To-day we read in one official paper, to-morrow in an another, of the love and longing with which the Catholic Bosnians look towards Austria. At the same time we are informed, as to their Mahommedan countrymen, that they do not conceal from themselves the knowledge that "a great European State would protect them better and more effectually." That sounds quite as if the

Bosnian Beys preferred the Ballplatz to the Atmeidan and St. Stephen's Church to the Mosque of Eyub. Or do the officials perhaps by these remarks hint that in Bosnia the poor Beys have been hitherto shamefully oppressed by the ruling Rayah, and are, therefore, thinking of emigration. There is a method in these proceedings that fills us with anxiety. Then these descriptions of the Bosnian enthousiasm for Austria, the zeal with which the officials lay stress on the circumstance that the Catholic Bosnians will not hear of annexation to Servia; are these things also not a result of the meeting at Reichstadt? Has a reward not, perhaps, been promised there to Austria for the services which she has rendered to the southern Slavs? and if so, what can have been promised to Austria but an increase of territory long wished for in certain circles? It is possible that we see in too dark colours, but that is not our fault. There is a simple means for dissipating at least the darkest fears—a straightforward denial of the statement, that the harbour of Klek is to be closed against Turkish ships, will make the ugly shadows disappear. But we doubt whether it can be contradicted. Prince Gortchakow kissed Count Andrassy on taking leave of him at Reichstadt. A statesman who is so overpoweringly affectionate must have reasons to be satisfied with his success.

No. 228.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 18.)*

Constantinople, July 17, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Government are about to protest formally against the closing of Klek, but have no hope of decision being changed.

They consider it to have been come to in deference to Russian suggestion, and attribute capture of the place by the Montenegrins as the result of unfriendly act.

They say that, if a few days' notice had been given, they would have been able to remove stores and supplies collected there to a place of safety, but the announcement being made without warning, ships that had already sailed with troops have had to be stopped.

The indignation against Austria is very great.

No. 229.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 444.)

Foreign Office, July 18, 1876.

Sir,

MR. ST. JOHN, in his despatch No. 68 of the 28th ultimo, a copy of which has been communicated to your Excellency, reports that M. Cogalniceano observed to him, that by their neutrality and friendly conduct towards Turkey ever since he had been in power, the Government of the United Principalities had alienated themselves from Servia, and at the same time received no acknowledgment for their services to Turkey; that at Constantinople a great want of civility was shown to their Agent, any communication that had to be made being expressed in language most offensive to their feelings. The Government at Bucharest continued, nevertheless, to take severe measures to prevent Bulgarians and arms crossing the Danube, and all they asked in return was a little more courtesy.

I have to instruct your Excellency to make a confidential communication to the Porte to the above effect, and advocate the policy of maintaining, as far as possible, friendly relations with the Principalities.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 230.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 445.)

Foreign Office, July 18, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 715 of the 6th instant, I have to state that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your Excellency's advice to the Porte that

* Repeated to Embassies.

an energetic commander should be appointed over the irregulars to be employed in Servia, as well as your warning of the indignation that would be aroused in Europe should the progress of the Turkish troops in that Principality be marked by barbarities upon an unresisting population.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 231.

Count Andrassy to Count Beust.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, July 18.)

(Télégraphique.)

VOICI ce que j'ai télégraphié au Comte de Zichy concernant la fermeture du port de Klek: Djanik aurait reçu la permission de débarquer à Klek avant que la fermeture de ce port avait été ordonnée. On pourrait accorder la même permission à Arcadi et Schériff Ressum puisque leur arrivée était déjà annoncée, mais le débarquement serait très dangereux, vu que l'enclave est occupée par 4,000 Monténégrins qui intercepteraient la cargaison.

Nous regrettons l'impression produite par notre décision, mais nous sommes forcés de la maintenir. Les eaux de Klek ayant de tout temps été regardés comme "mare clausum" les devoirs que nous impose notre neutralité exigent que nous adhérions strictement à ce principe. Je ne crois pas même qu'il serait dans l'intérêt de la Porte que de permettre l'entrée du port aux vaisseaux Turcs. Les Monténégrins qui, dans ce moment, occupent Klek, ne manqueraient pas de s'emparer des armes et des munitions de guerre importées avec autorisation et de cette façon la Porte ne ferait que fournir elle-même des munitions de guerre à ses ennemis. Dans tous les cas il se livrerait un combat dans l'enclave de Klek qui, à cause du peu d'espace de cette dernière, ne s'arrêterait pas à notre frontière. Il en résulterait non seulement un danger pour nous mais notre dignité en souffrait aussi en tant que le Monténégro en s'opposant au débarquement serait capable de rendre illusoire une autorisation accordée par nous.

J'ai reçu des nouvelles confirmant qu'un vaisseau Turc ayant débarqué au port de Klek, a pris par son artillerie une part active à un combat entre des Monténégrins et des troupes de l'armée de terre Turque, et qu'il n'a pas voulu cesser son feu après avis reçu de la part des autorités Autrichiennes l'intimation qu'il n'est pas permis de tirer le canon dans des eaux neutres. Ce fait prouve à l'évidence que la fermeture du port de Klek est une mesure absolument nécessaire et nous n'en désisterons sous aucune condition.

Votre Excellence voudra faire valoir au besoin ce que je viens de lui communiquer.

No. 232.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 12. Political.)

Rustchuk, July 12, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed the translation of a bulletin that has been issued here since my last report, and which, I think contains all we know here respecting the movements of the Turkish and Servian armies in the field.

The same exaggerated reports continue to come here from Bucharest.

Troops are being forwarded daily from this to the front, but, as they arrive at all hours of the day and night, and leave immediately, it is impossible to ascertain exact details.

I have just received a letter from a friend in Giurgevo, of which the following is an exact copy:—

"I have been informed that for many days past Russian officers and 'sous officiers' pass through here for Servia daily *incognito*, and have resource through every thoroughfare (*sic*) in Roumania, dividing themselves to several directions to avoid detection from the Government. I have seen some of them myself, and I recognized them to be Russian military. Their baggage consists of a small box, in which I conceive are arms."

The four men-of-war that were here are all gone up the Danube, and, I believe, to Widdin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 232.

Bulletin of the "Toonn" (the Vilayet Paper).

Telegram from Sofia, June 27 (old style).

THE Seraskier, accompanied by Adin and Solyman Pashas, and several of their staff, have this day reached Sofia.

Widdin, June 27.

2,000 Servians have passed Belgradchik, and at the village of Kadi Boghazi were engaged with the troops under the command of Colonel Husseyn Bey. The action lasted five hours and the Servians, after losing several killed, some ammunition, and upwards of 300 rifles, were driven back upon Korito, in the Servian territory. One village was destroyed during the action. Of our troops two men were killed and eight wounded.

Colonel Hussein and the Kaïmakam of Belgradchik have telegraphed this.

No. 233.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July 19.)

Constantinople, le 17 Juillet, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

NOUS avons lu dans un numéro du "Daily News" une longue correspondance de Bulgarie, remplie de récits sans fondement et de mensonges les plus exagérés.

Les Bachi-Bazouks dont on parle sont les propres habitants armés de la province qui ont été dirigés vers le théâtre de l'insurrection. Ils se sont battus contre les insurgés pour défendre leurs propriétés, leurs familles et leurs biens, parce qu'au commencement de l'insurrection le Gouvernement n'avait pas assez de troupes régulières pour l'étouffer. Il y a eu en effet en Bulgarie, pendant la révolte, des actes de meurtre et de pillage commis de part et d'autre; mais il y a exagération dans le récit des faits. Ce qui avait provoqué dans ces localités des rigueurs de la part des habitants Musulmans, c'est qu'on avait trouvé dans les papiers des principaux meneurs des instructions des différents Comités Bulgares qui prescrivaient le massacre général de tous les Musulmans et la destruction de leurs propriétés, ainsi que l'incendie des villes d'Andrinople, de Philippopoli, et de Tatardjik.

Nous mettrons sous peu sous les yeux de l'Europe entière un exposé détaillé de cette malheureuse insurrection, des faits et des circonstances qui s'y rattachent, ainsi que l'interrogatoire, le jugement et l'exécution des coupables.

D'après les détails rapportés par les Consuls, notamment celui de Sa Majesté Britannique, il y aurait eu massacre de 2,000 . . . . . du village de Boyadji-Keuy, dépendant d'Islimia. Ce fait serait également rapporté par l'Agent de . . . . . Britannique à Bourgas. Pour vous donner une idée de l'exagération de ces faits, il me suffit de vous dire que, toute vérification faite, ce chiffre se réduit à quatre-vingt-dix individus tués dans les combats qui ont eu lieu entre les habitants de ce village et les Turcs.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, ayant appris ces jours-ci qu'un corps de volontaires destiné à rejoindre les troupes se trouvant à Nich, avait commis, en passant au village de Haulkeuycouroutchesmé, quelques actes de pillage et tué une villageoise Bulgare, a envoyé sur les lieux son Excellence Kiani Pacha, un des Ministres, homme sévère et énergique, pour juger sommairement et faire exécuter immédiatement ceux qui seraient convaincus d'avoir commis ces actes répréhensibles.

Veuillez bien donner lecture du présent télégramme à Lord Derby et prier sa Seigneurie de n'accueillir qu'avec la plus grande réserve tout ce qui pourrait lui être rapporté au sujet de meurtres, actes de pillage et de cruauté imputés à nos troupes irrégulières. Nous connaissons les sources d'où proviennent ces nouvelles, que l'on livre à une grande publicité pour donner le change à l'opinion à notre égard.

(Translation.)

Constantinople, July 17, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

WE have read, in a number of the "Daily News," a lengthy correspondence from Bulgaria, full of statements without foundation and the most exaggerated falsehoods.

The Bashi-Bazouks mentioned in it are the actual inhabitants of the Province in arms who have been sent to the scene of the insurrection. They have been fighting against the insurgents in defence of their lands, their families, and their goods, because

at the commencement of the insurrection the Government had not enough regular troops to suppress it. In point of fact, acts of murder and pillage have been committed on both sides in Bulgaria during the revolt; but there has been exaggeration in the statement of the facts.

What provoked acts of severity in these districts on the part of the Mussulman inhabitants was the discovery, among the papers of the chief instigators of the insurrection, of instructions from the various Bulgarian Committees prescribing a general massacre of all Mussulmans and the destruction of their property, together with the burning of the towns of Adrianople, Philippopolis, and Tatardjik.

We shall shortly place under the eyes of all Europe a detailed account of this unfortunate insurrection, and of the facts and circumstances relating to it, as well as the interrogations, trial, and execution of the guilty. According to the details reported by the Consuls, especially by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, there has been a massacre of 2,000 . . . . . of the village of Boyadji-Keuy, a dependence of Islimia.

This fact has been likewise reported by the Agent of Her Britannic Majesty's . . . . . at Bourgas.

To convey to you an idea of the exaggeration of these facts, it is sufficient that I should tell you that, after complete verification, this total is reduced to 90 persons killed in the combats which have taken place between the inhabitants of this village and the Turks.

The Imperial Government, having lately learned that a body of volunteers, on their way to rejoin the troops at Nich, had committed, in passing the village of Haulkeuy-couroutchesmé, certain acts of pillage and killed a Bulgarian peasant woman, has dispatched to the spot his Excellency Kiani Pasha, one of the Ministers, a severe and energetic man, to judge summarily, and have executed forthwith those who may be convicted of having committed these reprehensible acts.

Have the goodness to read this telegram to Lord Derby, and beg his Lordship to accept only with the greatest reserve any reports that may reach him concerning murders, acts of cruelty, and of pillage, imputed to our irregular troops. We know the sources whence these reports take their rise, which are given the greatest publicity, in order to deceive public opinion respecting us.

No. 234.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July 19.)

Constantinople, le 18 Juillet, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

LA Sublime Porte vient de formuler par l'entremise de son Ambassadeur à Vienne une protestation contre la fermeture du port de Klek.

Aléco Pacha a reçu l'ordre de vous la communiquer immédiatement par la poste.

No. 235.

Mr. Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

Serajevo, July 19, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Montenegrins are encamped in force near Nevesine. Turks concentrating troops to attack them. Klek is closed by Austria. News from Servian frontier always favourable to the Turks.

No. 236.

Mr. Mulet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

Rome, July 19, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to the telegram from Sir A. Buchanan, transmitted here yesterday, I am informed at Ministry for Foreign Affairs that Italian Minister at Vienna received same answer as that reported by Sir A. Buchanan concerning closing of Klek.

No. 237.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 19, 1876.*

A VERY strong Proclamation for the prevention of excesses by the Bashi-bazouks has been issued by the Grand Vizier. It warns them that if any of them rob or maltreat the population, they will be arrested and summarily executed. The officers are told that they will be responsible for the conduct of their men.

No. 238.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 19, 1876.*

MR. BARING left this morning for Adrianople, to inquire into the alleged atrocities in Bulgaria.

No. 239.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 63.) *Foreign Office, July 19, 1876.*

Sir,

I HAVE to approve the language held by you in conversation with M. Contostavlos and with M. Counoundouros, as reported in your despatch No. 155 of the 5th instant, upon the subject of the present state of affairs in the insurgent provinces of Turkey, and the policy which the Greek Government should pursue.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 240.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 446.) *Foreign Office, July 19, 1876.*

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 695 of the 1st instant, inclosing a copy of a letter from the Prince of Servia to the Porte, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the advice given by you to Safvet Pasha as to the nature of the answer which should be returned to that communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 241.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 447.) *Foreign Office, July 19, 1876.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the language held by your Excellency to Safvet Pasha, in reply to his question whether you thought it advisable that the Porte should revoke Prince Milan's Firman of Investiture, as reported in your despatch No. 721 of the 6th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 242.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 448.) *Foreign Office, July 19, 1876.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 440 of the 14th instant, respecting the cruelties committed in the suppression of the insurrection in Bulgaria, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your exertions to put an end to those excesses.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 243.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 83. Political.) *Ragusa, July 12, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram received here yesterday from the Governor-General of Albania, announcing a Turkish success that morning near Podgoritza, on the frontier. Slav accounts give the victory to the mountaineers; and also report a defeat of the Turks by the Voivode of the district of Zrnitza, near the head of the Scutari Lake.

News arrived here last night that 5,000 Montenegrins, under Petro Pavlovics, were approaching Klek, and that they were encamped last night in a village in the district of Popovo. During their march from Banjani, they say that they received the submission of six Mussulman villages.

I do not think that there can be any considerable Turkish force at Klek: and if it is true that the Austrians will not permit the Turkish man-of-war in the harbour to fire at the enemy on land, the Turks will be driven into the sea. Klek once in their hands, the Montenegrins can easily cut the communication between Metcovich and Mostar.

The rest of the Prince of Montenegro's army, consisting of about 10,000 of his own subjects, 6,000 Herzegovinians, and 3,000 Dalmatians, is encamped at Zrnitza, near Gatzko. The Prince is in treaty with the Mussulmans in the neighbouring villages for their submission, which he wishes to receive before attacking Gatzko.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 243.

The Governor-General of Albania to the Turkish Consul-General at Ragusa.

(Télégraphique.) *Scutari, July 11, 1876.*

APRES le combat de Dimanche passé aux environs de Podgoritza, et dont je vous ai fait part, une bande de rebelles Monténégrins joints aux Wassovitch, Piperi, Bielapaolich, Coutchi, et autres, avaient choisi leur siége sur notre Coutchi. Ce matin à 10 heures un bataillon de troupes régulières, un des redifs, et les volontaires de Scutari, Podgoritza, Gruda, Hotti, Castrati, et autres montagnes, après un combat de 4 heures, ont dispersé plus de 5,000 insurgés installés dans leurs fortifications. Trente et un des plus renommés sont tombés sur le champ de bataille. Ils eurent aussi plus de 400 morts et autant de blessés. Les ennemis laissèrent plusieurs armes, munitions, des enseignes d'officiers et des casquettes. C'est une victoire et un bonheur de notre auguste Souverain. Nos pertes s'élèvent à 11 morts et 25 blessés environ.

(Signé) AHMED HAMDY.

No. 244.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 84. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, July 12, 1876.*

IN conversation with those who sympathize with the cause of the insurrection, I find that they place their hopes of the ultimate defeat of the Turkish forces almost entirely in the accession of fighting strength which the Servians and their allies will receive from the volunteers enlisted in the adjoining Slav Provinces, and in the advantages they will derive from the strategic skill of those officers of foreign origin who have taken service with the rebels. Of the military value of the Servian army, no very great opinion is held by any one with whom I have discussed the chances of the war; and, while it is insisted that the Turkish troops are demoralized, dissatisfied with their officers, and lacking in enthusiasm for the cause in which they are called upon to fight, it is at the same time admitted that, little formidable as they may be, they would be yet far more than a match for the Servians were the latter left to fight them alone and unassisted. That such is not to be the case, was the understanding upon which Servia and Montenegro decided upon risking the chances of open war. I gather from those who ought to be well informed, that three considerations have been prominently in the minds of those whose bellicose counsels have carried the day—firstly, that the strength of the Turkish army has been greatly exaggerated, and that the Porte has already very nearly exhausted her reserves of men; secondly, that large reinforcements from the Slav Provinces of Austria-Hungary would immediately swell the ranks of the rebels; and, thirdly, that the declaration of war would be the signal for internal difficulties in the remaining provinces of European Turkey, which would create an effectual diversion, and would probably attract the Catholic portion of the population to the side of the insurgents.

With regard to the first of these points, I presume that the Austrian Military authorities must be supplied with trustworthy data, and I know that officers high in command in Dalmatia ridicule the published statements of the strength of the various Turkish corps now operating against Servia, and declare that the latter are greatly overestimated. These officers are in such relations with the Russian Consulate, and with Montenegro, that all their information has doubtless been communicated to the latter.

As to the second point, the facts are too notorious to need comment, and the steps which the Austro-Hungarian Government has been obliged to take to prevent wholesale enlistments in Croatia and Slavonia are sufficient proof that the calculations of those who directed the policy of the rebellious Provinces were correct. With regard to Southern Dalmatia, it has furnished volunteers for the insurrection during the last twelve months; and on an occasion such as the fighting in the Douga Pass, whole districts of Austrian subjects went forth to the battle.

From all the intelligence which reaches me up to the present moment, the third point in the calculation has not yet been realized.

In Bosnia and Albania the Catholics show a decided disposition to support the Government, in spite of all the efforts which have been, and are being made, to attract them to the side of the rebels. Great hopes are undoubtedly entertained that they will yet be won over, and equally great is the expectation that a rising will take place in Crete, to which island a large number of seditious emissaries have recently repaired.

There is, however, another argument which is openly put forward here, and which I may call the "sentimental," in opposition to the foregoing "material" considerations. It is reasoned that it is impossible for Servia and Montenegro to be in any way losers by the result of the war, which ever way victory inclines. There is great confidence that the Turks will be thoroughly defeated, and that Servia and Montenegro will be able to annex the territories which they covet; but, in the contrary event, it is regarded as impossible for Europe to consent to their being placed in a worse position than they were before, in which case it will only be necessary to repeat the attempt after a short interval, with chances of success greatly increased by the favourable current of public opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 245.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 20.)

(No. 480.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 17, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 475 of the 15th instant, containing extracts from Austrian journals, touching on the eventuality of the possible wish of the inhabitants of Bosnia to be annexed to the Empire of Austria-Hungary, I have the honour to inclose a translation of an extract from the "Fremden-Blatt" of this date, stating that the Austrian Consul-General at Serajevo has received petitions from Bosnian Christians, expressing a hope that such annexation may speedily take place, as the only means of restoring quiet to the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 245.

Extract from the "Fremden Blatt" of July 17, 1876.

(Translation.)

THE Consul-General Theodorovics in Serajevo has, as we learn from a telegram sent from that to the "Buda Correspondence," received petitions from Bosnian Christians in which they entreat that the Emperor of Austria should bring about the establishment of order in Bosnia, so long wished for, for thus alone is quiet to be hoped for.

From the same source we learn that in Agram the certain eventuality of the annexation of Bosnia to Austria-Hungary, as the only solution of the Oriental difficulty, is accentuated by the remark that Prince Gortchakow had himself made this proposition.

The German papers are beginning to occupy themselves, and in no hostile tone, with this expression of feeling as reported from Agram. The "Vossiche Zeitung" says that under such circumstances the Eastern question appears in a new light, "and perhaps not the wrong one."

No. 246.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July 20.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 19 Juillet, 1876.*

UN corps de 500 cavaliers miliciens Abazai, parti le 18 Juillet de Halvi-Aollie, est entré en Serbie et a engagé un combat avec les Serbes du village Ghenich qu'il a brûlé; la perte de l'ennemi s'élève à 150 hommes.

Dans un autre combat, engagé la veille avec les Monténégrins, nos troupes ont battu complétement les montagnards et saisi leur bétail.

Des Serbes sortis de Zaitchar avec dix-huit bataillons, se sont avancés le 18 Juillet sur nos lignes; mais ne pouvant résister longtemps aux attaques vigoureuses de nos troupes, ils ont dû battre en retraite. Ils ont laissé entre nos mains cinq canons, deux caissons, sept chevaux d'artillerie. La déroute des Serbes a été complète; nous avons pris à l'ennemi des armes et munitions en grande quantité.

Nos troupes ont rencontré Dimanche, sur les hauteurs de Ragonina, un corps de 3,000 Serbes, avec deux canons, divisés en trois colonnes; elles ont engagé un combat qui a duré cinq heures; l'ennemi, battu, a été poursuivi jusqu'au delà de la frontière sur la rive opposée de l'Okdja; ses pertes s'élèvent à plus de 300 morts et blessés, outre ceux qui ont été noyés dans la rivière; nous avons fait six prisonniers, et nous avons pris un drapeau, une centaine de fusils, des pistolets et des munitions.

No. 247.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 457.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 20, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the suggestion made by your Excellency to Safvet Pasha, as reported in your despatch No. 693 of the 1st instant, that Turkish

gun-boats should not enter the waters which divide Servia from the United Principalities until there was evidence that Prince Charles' Government did not effectually guard their own river frontier, and prevent the passage of supplies for the insurgents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 248.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 2.) *Foreign Office, July 20, 1876.*

Sir,

I APPROVE the answer which you returned, as reported in your despatch No. 74 of the 4th instant, to the request of the Turkish Consul-General, that you would suggest to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna the expediency of the adoption by the Austrian Government of stringent measures to prevent the landing at the ports of the Bocche di Cattaro of contraband of war for Montenegro. I should wish you to be careful to report to Vienna any cases that may be brought to your knowledge of the violation or evasion of the orders which have now been given for the closing of those ports, but you should take care to be guarded in any communications upon the subject which may pass between yourself and your Turkish colleague.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 249.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 20.)

Serajevo, July 20, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

OFFICIAL telegrams announce complete defeat of Servians at Lunchа, with the loss of four guns."

No. 250.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 20.)

Vienna, July 20, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. MONSON telegraphs to-day:—

"Signor Durando, Italian Consul at Galatz, who has been sent here by his Government as their Agent to the Prince of Montenegro, has no special instructions in that capacity, but is simply charged with a letter accrediting him to His Highness. He is directed to remain at Ragusa and report upon the progress of events.

No. 251.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 20.)

Vienna, July 20, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram of the 18th instant, no formal protest has yet been received here against the closing of Klek.

No. 252.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 20.)

Vienna, July 20, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I UNDERSTAND that exception has been taken here to a recent statement of your Lordship that dualism and difficulties with natives render it necessary for Austria-Hungary to pursue a peaceful policy, and that Count Andrassy has written to Count Beust confidentially on the subject.

No. 253.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 20.)*

Berlin, July 20, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

RADOWITZ asked me whether it was true that Her Majesty's Government adhered to proposal of Duc Decazes for settlement of Servian question.

I said I did not know of the French proposals, but that Her Majesty's Government would agree to no preconceived settlement of those questions before the war was over and without the knowledge of the German Government.

No. 254.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 20.)

Therapia, July 20, 1876, 2·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Porte is informed that Bashi-Bazouks of Haskeui have been pillaging and committing acts of violence on the inhabitants of other Bulgarian villages. They have been arrested and disarmed, and their chief was hanged yesterday at Philippopoli. The others are still under trial.

No. 255.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 20, 5·16 P.M.)

Belgrade, July 20, 1876, 2·37 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ANOTHER sanguinary engagement is reported on the frontier below the Timok, in which Turkish positions were taken by the Servians, and again retaken by the Turks.

No. 256.

Saffet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July 21.)

Sublime Porte, le 12 Juillet, 1876.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

POUR faire suite à mes précédentes communications, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, pour votre information personnelle, copie de la dernière lettre adressée par le Prince de Serbie à son Altesse le Grand Vizir et dont j'ai fait mention dans mon télégramme du 2 Juillet dernier.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 256.

Prince Milan to the Grand Vizier, June 14/26, 1876.

[See Inclosure in No. 82.]

No. 257.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 167. Confidential.) *Athens, July 12, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my No. 158, of the 4th instant, Confidential, respecting the transmission of arms to Montenegro, I have the honour to state that I have been

* Repeated to Paris.

informed, upon very good authority, that M. von Wedel is reported to have stated to a friend of his that he was acting with the knowledge of his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 258.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 168. Confidential.)
Athens, July 13, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my No. 162 of the 9th instant, Very Confidential, I have the honour to report that the French Minister told me to-day that he had been confidentially informed that M. de Herschfeld, the German Chargé d'Affaires, had received instructions from his Government to impress upon the Hellenic Government the necessity of Greece observing a neutral attitude, and of not mixing herself up in the quarrels between the Ottoman Government and its subjects.

The tenor of M. de Herschfeld's observations to me the other day, and the report that a German officer, M. de Wedel, was engaged in forwarding arms to Montenegro, led me to suppose that Germany would not view a rising on the part of the Greeks with disfavour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 259.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

Therapia, July 21, 1876, 7 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SINCE my last report upon military operations, all the official accounts from the Servian frontier agree in assigning signal advantages to the Turkish troops. No decisive general engagement has been fought; but in the last affair, which took place in the neighbourhood of Saitchar on Tuesday, the Servians were forced to retreat with heavy loss, leaving five guns and much war-material in the enemy's hands.

No. 260.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)*

Paris, July 21, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I KNOW nothing of proposal of Duke Decazes for the settlement of the Servian question which is mentioned in telegram from Lord Odo Russell repeated to me yesterday.

No. 261.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

Philippopoli, July 21, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

ALTHOUGH great atrocities have been committed by Turkish irregulars against the Bulgarians, they have been exaggerated. As regards Caza of Philippopoli, lives sacrificed below 15,000 (*sic*). No women or children sold as slaves here or Tatar Bazardjik. Sixty villages more or less burnt. Particulars will [be] given.

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* Repeated to Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, Constantinople, and Rome.

No. 262.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 333.)
Foreign Office, July 21, 1876.

Sir,

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador again alluded, in a conversation which I had with him to-day, to the closing of the Port of Klek.

His Excellency said that his Government was informed that the Porte complained of not having had notice given to it of the intention to close the port, but he observed that there was no foundation for this complaint, inasmuch as at the present moment there was only one Turkish vessel at Klek, which had not completed the disembarkation of her cargo. The Imperial Government had, indeed, announced that no more vessels would be admitted, and their anxiety to give the Porte early notice of this determination had been increased by the fear that the Montenegrins would seize the *cachas* whilst the permission for disembarkation was still in force, which would produce a compromising situation.

His Excellency added that he had learned that Count Zichy had telegraphed from Constantinople, on the 20th, that, in compliance with the instructions he had received from Vienna, he had had a long interview with Sir H. Elliot, who had been so much impressed with the arguments which he had used in favour of the closing of Klek, that he had reason to hope for his assistance in inducing the Porte to accept them as justifying the measure.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 263.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 712.)
Foreign Office, July 21, 1876.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador asked me in conversation to-day what view Her Majesty's Government took of the closing of the Port of Klek by the Austrian Government.

I said that we had refrained from expressing any opinion upon the subject, and that, as at present advised, we were disposed to leave the question to be discussed between the Governments immediately concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 264.

The Count de Vogüé to the Duc Decazes.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by the Marquis d'Harcourt, July 22.)

Vienne, le 3 Juillet, 1876.

M. le Duc,

LA guerre est définitivement déclarée entre la Porte et les Principautés Slaves. Les partis extrêmes qui gouvernent à Belgrade ont jeté leur pays dans une aventure où il risque ses libertés chèrement acquises et ses progrès péniblement accomplis. Le Monténégro a jeté dans la lutte. Les Chrétiens de la Bulgarie font l'objet d'un appel suprême qui va attirer sur des populations paisibles et relativement prospères les calamités d'une répression impitoyable. Les télégrammes reçus de Belgrade et de Cettigné ne laissent aucun doute sur l'ouverture des hostilités; ils annoncent que la frontière Turque a été franchie en plusieurs points et que de légères escarmouches ont précédé aux engagements sérieux.

Ces nouvelles, quoique prévues à Vienne, y ont causé une émotion bien naturelle et ont jeté le Comte Andrassy dans un embarras facile à comprendre. Le Ministre se trouve pris de nouveau entre les engagements qu'il a pu contracter envers les deux Cabinets du Nord et des répugnances qui se manifestent de plus en plus à Pesth et à Vienne contre la politique Slave, et les conseils de la Russie. Quelle que puisse être sa perplexité le Comte Andrassy ne la laisse pas voir; il affecte une grande sécurité, il a confiance dans son étoile, il compte sur la fortune qui ne l'a pas encore trahi quoique il lui ait toujours

beaucoup abandonné ; il place tout son espoir sur une victoire rapide des Turcs et ne cache pas les vœux qu'il fait aujourd'hui pour le triomphe du croissant. Cet espoir pourrait être fondé, si j'en crois les détails qui circulent sur l'organisation rudimentaire de l'armée Serbe, si je m'en rapporte au souvenir que j'ai conservé de la discipline et de la vigueur du soldat Turc. Si un succès décisif amenerait en quelques jours l'armée Ottomane à Belgrade l'incendie pourrait être promptement étouffé, l'insurrection tomberait sans doute d'elle-même ; la Russie accepterait le verdict des armes, elle rejetterait sur l'esprit révolutionnaire, sur les entreprises téméraires de l'Omladina la responsabilité d'un échec qu'elle prédit et se contenterait, suivant la formule de Lord Derby, de s'interposer dans un but d'humanité pour empêcher les abus de la victoire ; l'accord se ferait entre les Puissances sur ce terrain limité et l'alliance des trois Empereurs sortirait encore une fois intacte de la plus sérieuse épreuve qu'elle eut subie.

Tel est, suivant moi, le calcul du Comte Andrassy ; mais les hazards de la guerre ont déjoué des calculs plus solidement établis. Que, contre toutes les prévisions les Serbes soient vainqueurs, que même sans remporter de victoire éclatante, ils parviennent à faire traîner les opérations en longueur, qu'évitant des batailles rangées, profitant des avantages du sol et de la connivence des populations limitrophes, ils parviennent à organiser sur certains points une défense invincible, sur d'autres une offensive vigoureuse intermittente mobile, qui étende peu à peu le champ de leurs opérations, encourage la révolte, détermine sur plusieurs points du territoire Ottoman des explosions nouvelles, achève la désorganisation de l'Administration Turque, en un mot que les Serbes soient vainqueurs ou simplement persévérants et heureux, la situation se modifie profondément et le Comte Andrassy ne saurait se dissimuler les graves difficultés qu'elle lui réserve.

Le but que poursuit le Prince Milan est avoué ; il veut réunir sous son administration, si ce n'est sous son sceptre, toute la Bosnie et l'ancienne Serbie : tout au plus consentirait-il à abandonner au Prince de Monténégro tout ou partie de l'Herzégovine pour prix de sa co-opération. Ses projets sur la Bulgarie ne sont pas connus : on peut toutefois supposer que s'il appelle cette province aux armes, ce n'est pas pour lui conseiller après la victoire de rentrer sous le joug des Pachas Turcs. Le programme commun de la Serbie et du Monténégro est donc la constitution entre le Danube et le Balkan d'une ou plusieurs unités Slaves indépendantes, et si la fortune sourit à leurs armes, tel est le fait accompli qu'ils espèrent opposer aux hésitations de la diplomatie Européenne. Or cette solution est profondément antipathique à la majorité de la population Autrichienne. Les traditions gouvernementales la repoussent comme dangereuse pour la Monarchie, comme obligeant la Couronne à renoncer définitivement aux chances d'agrandissement territorial qu'elle pourrait conserver ; les passions Hongroises la combattent avec violence ; les groupes Allemands l'attaquent avec moins de violence peut-être, mais avec une répugnance marquée que la sympathie bruyante qu'elle rencontre dans les régions Croats-Serbes de l'Empire ne suffit pas à vaincre. Plus la possibilité de cette solution apparaît, plus elle provoque de discussions ; l'opinion s'émeut et se forme. Le Comte Andrassy est l'objet de vives attaques : on l'accuse d'être l'instrument inconscient et aveugle des projets ambitieux de la Russie. A Vienne on fait des caricatures sur son compte ; à Pesth on discute son renversement et les oppositions parlementaires se recherchent et se rapprochent pour le combattre. Le mot d'intervention possible a été prononcée. L'opinion si résolument hostile à toute action matérielle tant qu'il s'agissent de se mêler aux affaires de la Turquie, de rétablir l'ordre dans des provinces insurgées, l'opinion, dis-je, semble admettre l'intervention au moment qu'elle aurait pour but de combattre l'émancipation des races Serbes et d'empêcher la création d'un Etat Sud-Slave. En Hongrie des mesures militaires sont demandées, conseillées, des esprits ardents vont jusqu'à réclamer des troupes "honved" dans les confins afin d'opposer aux passions nationales la garantie des passions contraires. Le Ministère qui heurterait ce courant, courrait le risque d'être emporté.

Le Comte Andrassy n'ignore pas la situation et est obligé d'en tenir compte ; son langage devient de plus en plus hostile à une création Slave, et ses paroles l'engagent de plus en plus dans la voie de la résistance. Je vous ai déjà transmis les déclarations du Baron de Hofmann à cet égard ; celles du Ministre ne sont pas moins nettes ; elles lui rendraient bien difficile l'action absolue, si les succès des Serbes venaient à donner des chances sérieuses au programme qu'il condamne.

Dans ce cas, quelle serait l'attitude de la Russie, et que deviendrait l'entente cordiale qui l'unit à l'Autriche-Hongrie ?

C'est une question que chacun se pose avec anxiété. Si je me la pose à moi-même, M. le Duc, ce n'est pas avec la prétention de la résoudre par voie de conjecture, mais avec l'intention de rechercher avec vous les éléments d'information qui peuvent aider à l'éclairer.

La Russie ne semble pas plus que l'Autriche, mais pour d'autres causes, favorable à la

création d'un grand Etat Sud-Slave, surtout d'un Etat à tendances révolutionnaires. Le but qu'elle me paraît poursuivre depuis la guerre de Crimée est tout autre. Si j'en crois les confidences qui m'ont été faites à Constantinople, ce serait la dislocation de la Turquie d'Europe, en une série d'autonomies distinctes et au besoin rivales, successivement émancipées à mesure qu'elle se montreraient viables et constituées séparément dans des conditions géographiques et ethnographiques telles qu'elles fussent assez sérieuses pour vivre, et pas assez fortes pour pouvoir se passer entièrement de la protection de la Russie ; celle-ci ne réclamerait pour elle-même que la restitution des territoires perdus en 1856.

Tel est, je crois, le programme du Prince Gortchakow, celui dont il a prudemment et lentement poursuivi la réalisation jusqu'au jour où les événements ont été plus forts que ses prévisions. Je ne crois pas qu'il y ait renoncé, si pourtant des succès Serbes ou Monténégrins ou Bulgares venaient à en modifier certains points, à en élargir certains cadres, pourrait-il se soustraire à la puissance des faits accomplis, à la pression des sympathies que susciterait en Russie la victoire des frères Slaves et Orthodoxes ? Pourrait-il accepter que l'œuvre des armes et de la croix fût combattue par une Puissance Chrétienne ?

Peut-être pourrait-il se prêter à ce qu'elle fût contenue, réglementée, mais lui serait-il possible d'admettre qu'elle fût détruite ? Il est bien difficile de le croire, et de ne pas entrevoir dans ces éventualités le germe de dissensions profondes entre la politique Russe et la politique Austro-Hongroise.

Pour échapper à la logique menaçante des faits qui se produiraient alors divers systèmes sont mis en avant et sont discutés ici. Celui qui paraîtrait rencontrer le plus de faveur dans les régions gouvernementales est le suivant : Je vous demande la permission, M. le Duc, de vous le faire connaître non comme une opinion arrêtée mais comme une hypothèse caressée avec une certaine complaisance ; je vous la résume telle qu'elle m'a été exposée par une personne généralement bien informée des dispositions du pouvoir.

"Le but que nous avons poursuivi était le maintien de l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman et l'amélioration du sort des sujets Chrétiens du Sultan. Ni intervention ni conquête, *statu quo* amélioré, telle était la formule du Comte Andrassy ; elle résume toute sa politique orientale.

"Il a consacré tous ses efforts à la faire prévaloir : il est loin d'y renoncer. Si pourtant les événements étaient plus forts que nous, si en dehors de nous, malgré nous, le *statu quo* venait à être détruit, s'il était impossible de le rétablir, l'Autriche-Hongrie devait ne consulter que ses intérêts et plutôt que de laisser créer à ses portes un Etat Sud-Slave, elle devrait occuper le pays, sauf à désintéresser la Russie par les compensations. En un mot, plutôt le partage de l'Empire Ottoman que l'autonomie de ses Provinces Slaves."

Cette formule, dont la gravité ne vous échappera pas, M. le Duc, aurait aux yeux de ceux qui la défendent, l'avantage d'être acceptée par une grande partie des populations Sud-Slaves de l'Autriche. Je crois même qu'elle appartient au programme des meneurs Catholiques d'Agram. Les groupes Slaves tendent à l'unité ; s'ils ne peuvent y arriver en dehors de l'Autriche, ils consentiraient à préparer leur unification par un rapprochement administratif sous le sceptre de la maison de Habsbourg.

Je ne saurais aujourd'hui envisager sous toutes ses faces un sujet aussi complexe, et après avoir indiqué le dilemme en présence duquel la victoire des Serbes placerait le Cabinet de Vienne, je m'abstiendrai de rechercher quelle est celle des deux solutions, partage ou autonomie, qui s'accorderait le mieux avec les intérêts bien compris de l'Etat Austro-Hongrois.

Je me bornerai à rappeler que la combinaison qui augmenterait l'étendue des territoires non-Allemands de la monarchie pourrait exposer ses Provinces Allemandes à des revendication ou à des convoitises sur lesquelles je crois inutile d'insister.

Je n'égarerai pas d'avantage, M. le Duc, dans le champ des conjectures en recherchant quel pourrait être l'accueil que le Gouvernement Russe ferait à une proposition de partage. Il ne serait pas moins intéressant de savoir comment un tel programme serait envisagé à Berlin ; plus les événements se précipitent plus ils tendent, ce me semble, à grandir le rôle du Cabinet Allemand.

La lutte qui s'engage sur le Danube peut diviser deux des alliés du "Drei Kaiser Bündniss," le troisième devient l'arbitre de la situation. Autant que je puis en juger ici, il semble que chacun des deux adversaires éventuels compte sur l'assentiment du troisième associé pour faire prévaloir son opinion.

L'avenir dira lequel des deux est dans l'erreur ; mon impression et celle de personnes très-bien renseignées, est que le concours de l'Allemagne est, en tout état de cause, acquis à la Russie.

Tous les préparatifs sont achevés pour l'entrevue qui doit avoir lieu à Reichstadt le 8 courant entre les Empereurs de Russie et d'Autriche, le Prince Gortchakow et le Comte Andrassy accompagneront leurs Majestés. M. de Novikoff a reçu l'ordre de se rendre à la frontière afin de pouvoir entretenir l'Empereur Alexandre avant la rencontre des deux Souverains.

Afin de manifester publiquement les sentiments qu'il apporte à Reichstadt, l'Empereur François-Joseph a daigné conférer à l'Ambassadeur de Russie le Grand Cordon de Ste. Etienne; cette haute distinction est une réponse aux articles très-malveillants des journaux de Vienne contre la politique Russe; elle a été assez froidement accueillie par le public dont les méfiances à l'égard de la Russie ont augmenté avec la déclaration de guerre.

Pour ma part, elle me paraît la juste récompense des efforts loyaux et sincères que M. de Novikoff n'a cessé de faire pour maintenir entre l'Autriche et la Russie une entente si nécessaire à la paix de l'Europe.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) VOGÜÉ.

No. 264*.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 71. Political. Confidential.)

Bucharest, July 1, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, a copy which I have been able to procure of a circular of M. Cogalniceano, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the Roumanian Agents abroad, setting forth grievances which the Government of these Principalities appear to have against the Porte as well as certain pretensions to which they aspire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 264*.

M. Cogalniceano to Roumanian Agents abroad.

Bucarest, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Juin*, 1876.

M. l'Agent,

L'AVENEMENT du nouveau Souverain de la Turquie autorise le Gouvernement Princier à espérer que la politique suivie par la Sublime Porte jusqu'à ce jour, et surtout dans les derniers temps, à l'égard de la Roumanie, sera modifiée, et que les Conseillers de Sa Majesté Mourad V finiront par reconnaître qu'en deça du Danube il y a un peuple uni et sincère qui désire vivement entretenir avec la Turquie des rapports sur le pied de la plus parfaite harmonie et de la meilleure entente.

Le Gouvernement Princier est d'autant plus porté à conserver cet espoir qu'il n'a pas hésité un seul instant à maintenir la plus stricte neutralité en présence des événements qui se déroulent au-delà du Danube, et à s'imposer des sacrifices matériels en vue d'exercer la plus rigoreuse surveillance sur tout le littoral Roumain, et d'empêcher la formation de bandes et le transport d'armes pour les besoins de l'insurrection.

Les difficultés que le Gouvernement Princier a rencontrées à cet effet sont énormes à cause de la nombreuse population Bulgare établie sur le littoral du Danube, et même dans le centre de nos plus grandes villes; et ces difficultés devenaient encore plus graves, vu que nous nous trouvions à la veille des élections, et que des milliers des Bulgares ont des droits politiques en Roumanie.

Nonobstant ce, les engagements que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince prenait envers lui-même et en face de toutes les Puissances Garantes, et qu'il n'a pas de difficultés à renouveler ici, ont été constamment tenus et la Sublime Porte, en ce qui la concerne particulièrement, en a trouvé la preuve dans le fait que c'est la Roumanie qui lui couvre de sa garde une frontière d'une longueur de plus de 300 lieues, partant aux portes de fer et finissant à la Mer Noire.

Notre attitude correcte et loyale envers la Turquie ne saurait donc être méconnue à Constantinople, ainsi que par les différents Cabinets étrangers.

Tout en tenant compte des difficultés intérieures de la Turquie, le Gouvernement Princier croyait que la Sublime Porte ne tarderait pas à estimer à leur valeur les garanties de paix et de tranquillité que nous lui donnons et que, partant, elle serait la première à écarter toutes mésintelligences et discussions qui pourraient troubler nos bons rapports.

Néanmoins, dès maintenant, à certaines symptômes, nous sommes portés à croire que le nouveau Gouvernement Impérial semble vouloir continuer le système peu bienveillant dont le Gouvernement précédent a usé à notre égard. Il semblerait même être plus prodigue en concessions envers ceux qui lui ont suscité des embarras qu'envers ceux qui les lui ont évités. Ainsi pas plus tard que par une note officielle en date du le Ministre de Constantinople qualifie les Roumains de sujets Ottomans. La position de notre Agent à Constantinople continue à être dans la voie la plus irrégulière (!) il n'a pas été averti officiellement de changement du règne, ni même appelé à présenter ses félicitations au nouveau Sultan.

Nos droits, nos intérêts, les devoirs qui nous incombent vis-à-vis du pays, nous prescrivent l'obligation impérieuse de formuler nos griefs et nos demandes, et de faire tous nos efforts pour arriver à une solution. Vous serez le premier, M. l'Agent, à reconnaître que le *statu quo* maintenu plus longtemps ne pourrait à la longue que troubler les bons rapports que le Gouvernement Princier s'est fait un devoir d'entretenir avec la Sublime Porte, et c'est pour prévenir des conséquences fâcheuses pour les deux pays que je précise ici les questions qui depuis bien des années restent indécises, et dont la solution immédiate intéresse au plus haut dégré la Roumanie.

Ces questions sont:—

1. Reconnaissance de l'individualité de l'Etat Roumain et de son nom historique.
2. Admission du Représentant de Roumanie dans le Corps Diplomatique.
3. Régularisation de la position des sujets Roumains établis en Turquie à l'instar des autres sujets étrangers, et reconnaissance de la juridiction des Agents de Roumanie sur leurs co-nationaux.
4. Inviolabilité du territoire Roumain et délimitation des îles du Danube.
5. Conclusion avec la Turquie de Conventions de Commerce, d'Extradition des Malfaiteurs, Postale et Télégraphique.
6. Reconnaissance du passeport Roumain et abstention des Consuls Turcs de s'immiscer dans les affaires concernant les Roumains à l'étranger.
7. Fixation de la frontière entre la Roumanie et la Turquie aux embouchures du Danube, en prenant pour base le thalweg du bras principal de ce fleuve.

Bien que par leur nomenclature, vous voyez, M. l'Agent, que nos demandes sont aussi modérées que justes et équitables, néanmoins toutes les promesses données à différentes reprises et par différents Ministres de la Turquie, aucune de ces questions n'a obtenu la solution équitable que nous étions en droit d'attendre.

Vous conviendrez, M. l'Agent, que cet état de choses se prolongeant à l'infini changerait, je le répète, complètement la nature des relations entre la Roumanie et la Turquie et que, malgré toute notre ferme volonté d'entretenir avec le Gouvernement de Constantinople la plus parfaite harmonie, nous serions forcés de prendre une attitude autre que celle que nous avons observée jusqu'à ce jour, car, peut-être elle nous fera avoir ce que la conduite la plus cordiale ne nous a pas donné.

Je me propose, M. l'Agent, et fort prochainement, de faire des démarches directement auprès de la Sublime Porte, afin de lui demander, dans un intérêt réciproque, la solution de toutes les questions précitées.

Avant, cependant, d'entrer dans cette voie, je désire m'assurer de l'appui bienveillant du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité.

Aussi je viens vous prier, M. l'Agent, de vouloir bien entretenir le Gouvernement , d'une manière tout-à-fait confidentielle, de toutes les questions ci-dessus mentionnées. Vous trouverez dans mon mémoire, ci-annexé, les considérations amplement développées qui militent en faveur des nos demandes justes et fondées.

Ayant suivi les conseils que le Gouvernement nous a donnés, ayant observé, sur ses instances, une politique pacifique et loyale vis-à-vis de la Porte par notre neutralité, ayant couvert une longue frontière contre les envahissements de l'insurrection Bulgare, nous espérons que ce Cabinet voudra, à son tour, nous prêter son puissant appui pour que les Ministres du Sultan adoptent une politique plus juste à l'égard de la Roumanie, plus conforme aux intérêts des deux pays.

Dans l'attente du résultat de vos entretiens dans le sens de la présente, je saisis, &c.,
(Signé) M. COGALNICEANO.

No. 265.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 72. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, July 1, 1876.*

M. COGALNICEANO, Minister for Foreign Affairs, assures me that he has positively refused to allow the following munitions of war, coming from Russia, to cross the Roumanian frontier:—150,000 arms, 50,000 swords, 12 batteries of artillery, 70,000 ollas of lead.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 266.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 73. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, July 3, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report that His Highness Prince Charles opened the Chambers in person yesterday, and to inclose herewith two copies of his address.

The principal feature in the address is that which refers to the policy of strict neutrality to be maintained, which, as long as M. Cogalniceano remains in office, will, I think, be faithfully carried out by the present Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 266.

Prince Charles' Speech on Opening of the Chambers.

Messieurs les Sénateurs,
Messieurs les Députés,

LES élections de l'Assemblée Législative étant terminées, mon Gouvernement s'est empressé de vous convoquer en session extraordinaire, afin que les Corps le l'État une fois constitués, le pays puisse, un moment plus tôt, entrer pleinement dans l'exercice de ses droits constitutionnels.

Messieurs les Députés, mon Gouvernement a promis au pays de s'abstenir de toute ingérance dans les élections, de ne manifester aucune préférence. A l'occasion de la vérification des titres, vous constaterez si le Ministère est resté fidèle à ses engagements. Il s'est trouvé, toutefois, dans l'impossibilité de satisfaire aux contestations multiples qui se sont élevées au sujet des listes électorales de cet année.

Il dépend de votre sagesse que cette législature soit féconde en travaux utiles.

Messieurs les Sénateurs, Messieurs les Députés, je fais un appel d'autant plus chaleureux à votre patriotisme et à votre modération, dans les circonstances actuelles, que l'agitation règne à nos frontières, et que l'horizon politique est loin d'être rassurant. La situation créée à la Roumanie par le Traité de Paris lui garantit les bienfaits de la neutralité. Tant que nous observons les lois de cette neutralité; tant que nous offrirons à l'Europe le spectacle d'un peuple qui travaille en paix à des réformes et à des améliorations intérieures, nous avons tout le droit d'espérer que les dangers de l'extérieur s'arrêteront à nos frontières.

L'avancement des travaux agricoles va réclamer la présence du plus grand nombre d'entre vous. Aussi mon Gouvernement se bornera-t-il à vous soumettre les projets les plus urgents. Au premier rang figurent les économies budgétaires. En vous présentant le projet y relatif, appelé à être appliqué dans le courant même de cette année, mon Gouvernement peut, dès maintenant, vous donner l'assurance qu'il est fermement résolu à réduire les déponses de l'année prochaine aux limites des ressources budgétaires.

Vous aurez à vous occuper également, dans la session actuelle, du projet de loi concernant la transformation des journées de prestation en un impôt fixe, payable en argent.

Je suis convaincu, Messieurs les Sénateurs et Messieurs les Députés, que, tenant compte de la détermination de mon Gouvernement de mener à bonne fin la tâche difficile qu'il s'est imposée, vous ferez, à votre tour, tous vos efforts pour qu'un parfait accord subsiste entre

les deux Corps Législatifs. C'est ainsi que nous contribuerons ensemble à consolider nos institutions constitutionnelles, à développer les intérêts publics et privés, à rendre prospère notre chère Roumanie.

Que Dieu bénisse vos travaux!

(Signé) CHARLES.

Le Président du Conseil, Ministre de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics, MANOLAKI KOSTAKI.
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, M. KOGALNICEANO.
Le Ministre des Finances, I. C. BRATIANO.
Le Ministre de l'Intérieur, G. D. VERNESCO.
Le Ministre de la Guerre, Colonel G. SLANICEANO.
Le Ministre des Cultes et de l'Instruction Publique, G. CHITZU.
Le Ministre de la Justice, M. PHIRÉKYDE.

Bucarest, le $\frac{29 \text{ Juin}}{11 \text{ Juillet}}$ 1876.

No. 267.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 21. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna Serai, July 6, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman reports to me in a despatch No. 3 of the 29th June, that all the forts and block-houses between Gatzko and Nichsich have been provisioned by Moukhtar Pasha for a year.

Fears were entertained at Mostar that the inhabitants of Nichsich, both Mussulman and Christian, who are always on very good terms with their Montenegrin neighbours, having now obtained a good supply of provisions, would expel the Turkish garrison and deliver up the place to Montenegro. This fear was caused by the fact of nine of the principal Christian families having fled to Montenegro the very day after the place had been relieved by Moukhtar Pasha. Up to this time, however, through all former wars, the people of Nichsich have always remained obstinately faithful to Turkey.

The condition of the Herzegovina seems to be the same as when I left Mostar, the action of the insurgents being confined to brigandage. The Chief Musich had again made a descent on Razno and carried off all the cattle that had escaped him on the previous occasion.

Mr. Freeman also reports great agitation in Montenegro, which we now know has been followed by declaration of war against Turkey. Verbitza, the Minister of War, was named Commander-in-chief of the Montenegrin forces. Ammunition was distributed at Cettigné, and each man was ordered to provide himself with eight days' provisions.

There were gatherings in the Boëca di Cattaro, and numbers of volunteers were enrolled to join the Montenegrins, particularly from the people of Krivosci and Shupan. The leaders chosen were the chiefs of the insurrectionary movement against Austria in 1869.

The insurgents of the Herzegovina have rejected all offers of amnesty, and have returned with insolence the copies sent to them of the late Proclamation.

General Rodich has made a tour of inspection along the frontier of Dalmatia, and the Turkish authorities had been informed that the Austrian officers had subsequently shown in their conversation a marked hostility to Turkey. Up to date little seems to be known here with regard to the movements of the Montenegrins. Mehmet Ali Pasha, an excellent officer, commands at Novi-Bazaar, and has probably taken all his precautions to prevent any successful attempt being made by them to join the Servians at Sienitza or any other point within his command.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 268.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna Serai, July 7, 1876.*

IMMEDIATELY after the departure of the last post on the 1st it was known here that Servia had demanded from the Porte the cession of Bosnia as the price of peace,

and that this had been answered by an order to the Turkish army to advance on the Principality.

On the evening of the 2nd Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman telegraphed to me that Montenegro had also declared war with Turkey. Thus all the hopes of a pacific arrangement which had been raised by the assurances of Prince Milan, and the relief of Nichsich without opposition, were suddenly extinguished.

Hostilities seem to have been instantly commenced by Servia. The first news received here was, that on the 3rd the Servians attacked the Turks at Nisch, and that, after a momentary success, they had been repulsed. Then that they had passed the Drina, in force of about eight battalions, and had burnt the bazaar at Belina. A little later that the whole country had risen in support of the battalion and a half which was stationed at Belina, and had driven the Servians back across the frontier.

The Governor-General has to-day telegraphed the following version of the affair to the Turkish Embassy at Vienna:—

"Par mon télégramme d'hier j'avais eu l'honneur de mettre à la connaissance de votre Excellence la déconfiture des Serbes près de Belina.

"Aujourd'hui Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha ayant reçu des informations officielles plus en détail, je m'empresse de vous les communiquer. Soit pendant l'attaque, soit pendant la poursuite, nous n'avons eu que 40 morts, 79 blessés, 19 chevaux morts, et 29 blessés; la perte des Serbes et considérable: ils ont eu 800 morts que nos soldats enterrent par humanité.

On ne peut pas fixer décidément jusqu'à combien sera porté le nombre des fusils et des drapeaux nationaux laissés par l'ennemi, parceque nos soldats les ramassent encore; mais j'espère lè faire savoir à votre Excellence dans deux jours. La cause de la minimité (*sic*) de nombre de nos pertes est que, pendant l'attaque, les nôtres étaient derrières les édifices et au moment de la poursuite l'ennemi fuyant ne pouvait pas tirer. Les Serbes se sont empressés de se retirer en Serbie par le même endroit qu'ils avaient fait l'invasion.

"*Le 5 Juillet*, 1876. (Signé) "IBRAHIM PACHA."

On the 4th the following translation of a telegram addressed to the Governor-General by the Mutessarif of Nisch, was communicated to me:—

"Le Mutessarif de Vidine m'informe télégraphiquement que les troupes de cette division (Vidine) qui avaient franchi la haie de démarcation (de Serbie) ont attaqué les Serbes à 4 heures du matin aux environs d'Isvor, village situé près de la ville de Zaitchar; après un combat qui a duré 7 heures, les Serbes ont été repoussés, laissant plus de 2,000 morts sur le champs de bataille. Les forteresses sont occupées par les troupes Impériales.

(Signé) "ALI RIZI, *Mutessarif de Nisch.*

"*Le* $\frac{24 \text{ Juin}}{6 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1876."

It would thus appear that the Servians have been repulsed and beaten in every direction so far as is at present known.

The local Government has summoned all the male population between the ages of 15 and 60 to take up arms and proceed to the frontier, and the people, full of the greatest enthusiasm and confidence, have risen as one man in answer to this appeal. Several thousands have already left from the town and neighbourhood of Serajevo alone. 8,000 Albanians are on the way to Sienitza, and orders have been already sent for them to enter Servia.

News has also arrived that the Montenegrins have been defeated at Spuz, where the Turks, with some thousands of Albanian irregulars, who are flocking daily to the scene of action, are said to be about to enter Montenegro.

Moukhtar Pasha tells me that the total regular force now in Bosnia and the Herzegovine amounts to about 100 battalions, or some 60,000 men. At Nisch the corps d'armée will in a few days be 40 battalions, and at Widdin there are between 30 and 35. In Bosnia there are not many troops available for offensive operations, and it would be wise, I think, with a view to be prepared for every eventuality, and to ensure as speedy a termination to the war as possible, that the Government should send on every available reinforcement without hesitation or delay.

Sienitza is said to have been burnt, but whether by accident or by the Turks is not yet known.

The new Governor-General, Nasif Pasha, who arrived here yesterday, has just sent to tell me that Mehmet Ali Pasha has passed into Servia, in the vicinity of Sienitza, and

has had an encounter with the Servians in which he was completely victorious, 1,500 of the enemy having been killed.

It is scarcely necessary to say that I cannot vouch for the truth of any of these Turkish official statements, which my experience teaches me may be entirely false, and are usually much exaggerated, especially regarding the number of killed. Everything, however, at present seems to confirm the fact that hitherto the Turks have been victorious.

It is reported that the Servians have returned in increased force to Belina, and that there has been some hard fighting there again, without any decided result.

A couple of weeks ago a Serb here, evidently well informed as to the condition of Servia, told me that in spite of the promises of Prince Milan, she would go to war in sheer despair. He said the excitement of a great part of the people had gone too far to be controlled; the enormous cost of preparations had also hopelessly ruined Servia; it was hoped that war might produce a general conflagration, by which she might profit; and that if the Prince did not take the lead he would be assassinated or dethroned. I expressed a doubt as to such suicidal policy, but events have proved the correctness of my informant's views.

I hear the Servians contradict all the Turkish reports of successes obtained. This is but natural, as discouragement on their side would soon end in demoralization.

There is great agitation in the Banat, and in all the Austrian territories along the Danube opposite Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 269.

Consul Kirby-Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July 22.*)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July 6*, 1876.

THROUGH the kind permission of the Italian Consul here, who is also accredited to the Prince of Montenegro, I am enabled to have the honour to furnish your Lordship herein with a copy of the note of the Montenegrin Government communicating to him a transcript of the telegram (inclosure No. 2) by which Prince Nicholas announced to the Sublime Porte his resolution to have immediate recourse to hostilities.

Considerable stress is laid in the Prince's telegram upon the conduct of the Turkish authorities at Scutari, but the prohibition on the export of provisions complained of was never strictly carried out, and the troops collected on the Montenegrin southern frontiers did not exceed 8,000 men, a force quite insufficient to act on the offensive against Montenegro, and dangerously small for meeting a state of things such as has been created by Prince Nicholas' present decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY-GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 269.

M. Radowich to M. Berrio.

M. le Consul, *Cetrigné, le* $\frac{30}{18}$ *Juin*, 1876.

VOUS avez été, lors du commencement de l'insurrection en Herzégovine, l'interprète des désirs de votre Gouvernement pour demander à Son Altesse le Prince, d'accord avec les autres Puissances, de conserver la neutralité. Vous avez reçu la promesse de Son Altesse à cet effet et vous avez pu, par vous-même, vous rendre compte qu'elle l'a tenue.

Forcé, après des mois d'anxiété, de sacrifices, de vains efforts de pacification, de reconnaître que, sans avoir obtenu aucun avantage en faveur des Chrétiens de l'Herzégovine, le Monténégro se trouve à son tour exposé aux plus graves dangers, le Prince a dû prendre une résolution suprême, qu'il me charge de vous annoncer, vous priant de vouloir bien en donner connaissance au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi.

Je vous adresse la copie de la déclaration que Son Altesse adresse à la Sublime Porte par le télégraphe et qui vous mettra au courant des principaux motifs de sa décision.

Vous remerciant, au nom du Prince, des bons offices que vous avez rendus à la cause de la paix, je vous prie, M. le Consul, d'agréez, &c.

Le Chef de la Chancellerie de Monténégro pour les Affaires Etrangères,
(Signé) S. RADOWICH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 269.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le Juin*, 1876.

J'AI reçu le 25 courant le télégramme de votre Altesse du même jour, et je la remercie des expressions obligeantes qu'il contient. Je vois avec satisfaction que la Sublime Porte est disposée à apprécier avec plus de justice ma conduite dans les affaires de l'insurrection Herzégovinienne. Je regrette de ne pouvoir accueillir avec le même sentiment les assurances que votre Altesse me donne au sujet des mesures agressives et vexatoires, dont je me plaignais par ma dépêche du 13 courant.

Votre Altesse a été, non-seulement mal-informée, mais positivement trompée, par les agents qui ont prétendu la renseigner et qui désobéissent ouvertement à ses volontés. Le blocus, pour n'avoir pas été formellement notifié, n'existe pas moins dans toute sa rigueur; pour quelques Monténégrins, que, pour des raisons personnelles on laisse passer, on en repousse un grand nombre à la frontière; ceux qui se rendent par le Lac à Scutari sont empêchés de débarquer ou expulsés; les localités du Caimacamlik d'Antivari leur sont également interdites. La sortie des vivres de toute nature est rigoureusement défendue, ce qui ne peut être motivé par une rareté de grains qui n'existe pas, d'autant plus que, si cette raison avait été vraie, la prohibition aurait été annoncée d'avance, comme le veulent l'usage et les bons rapports. Du reste, ce ne sont pas les subsistances seules dont la sortie est empêchée; il en est de même des animaux, des matières brutes, des objets manufacturés, de toutes les marchandises dont nos montagnards ont le besoin et l'habitude de s'approvisionner en Albanie.

Quant aux concentrations de forces, votre Altesse a également reçu de faux rapports. Pour ne citer que deux exemples: cinq jours avant l'envoi de votre télégramme, un camp d'une brigade a été installé à une demi-lieue de ma frontière, sur la rive occidentale du Lac de Scutari, le jour même de sa date, un bataillon débarquait à Scutari. En outre, il ne peut échapper à votre Altesse quelle signification stratégique nous devons donner à l'intention, formellement exprimée, d'exclure le district de Niksich de toute armistice éventuel.

Tout en apprenant avec satisfaction que les faits signalés sont, sauf le dernier, indépendants de la volonté de votre Gouvernement, je dois dire franchement à votre Altesse que nous ne nous sentons pas rassurés. Le peuple Monténégrin sait qu'il est, par le seul fait de son indépendance, en butte à des inimitiés, que son anéantissement pourrait seul satisfaire, et l'expérience du passé lui fait reconnaître les signes précurseurs des précédentes invasions. Je ne peux pas faire autrement que de partager sa conviction, car je sais très-bien que, si je n'ai pas été attaqué il y a deux mois, ce n'est pas à la modération seule du dernier Gouvernement Turc que je le dois.

D'autre part, Altesse, si en mentionnant les sacrifices de tous genres que la guerre d'Herzégovine nous impose, je me suis abstenu de parler des sentiments avec lesquels nous y assistons, c'est que je n'avais pas à vous apprendre que nos sympathies sont avec nos coreligionnaires, qui, quoique séparés de nous politiquement, sont en fait nos compatriotes par le sang, par la langue, par les mœurs et par les malheurs communs du passé. Malgré cela, résistant aux sollicitations et aux entraînements, je me suis attaché à remplir mes devoirs internationaux. Quand les Puissances, en se chargeant de plaider auprès de Sa Majesté le Sultan la cause des Chrétiens, m'ont demandé de garder la neutralité, j'en ai pris l'engagement et je l'ai tenu. Il est inutile de revenir sur le détail des tentatives de pacification successives, sauf pour rappeler que j'y ai aidé de tout mon pouvoir et que, avec l'agrément des Puissances, j'ai accepté le mandat de représenter les insurgés dans les négociations.

De tout ce qui s'est fait pour le rétablissement de la paix, il n'est résulté qu'une chose, la démonstration de l'impossibilité absolue pour la Sublime Porte, malgré la sincérité reconnue de ses bonnes intentions, de donner à ses sujets des provinces insurgées, les institutions et les garanties, qui seules pourraient se concilier avec leurs aspirations légitimes et avec le temps où nous vivons; mais par la nature de ma coopération aux essais de pacification, comme par le vœu général des populations, il m'a été donné des droits et imposé des devoirs, qui me dictent ce que j'ai à faire.

La démarche même, que votre Altesse veut bien faire auprès de moi, est une preuve de plus que les circonstances sont plus fortes que les volontés pacifiques des Gouvernements: aussi, en présence de la guerre sans résultat qui désole des contrées qui ont droit à mon secours, je me vois dans l'absolue nécessité de prendre, sans délai ultérieur, une résolution décisive.

Avec un profond chagrin d'être réduit à cette extrémité et la conviction que la

Sublime Porte, si elle l'avait pu, aurait, autant que moi, désiré l'écarter, je viens annoncer à votre Altesse que la situation équivoque de relations toujours tendues fera place, dès le . . . . . , à la situation plus nette des hostilités déclarées.

No. 270.

Consul Kirby-Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 38.) *Scutari, July* 11, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, in which I furnish his Excellency with transcripts of two telegrams reporting encounters the day before yesterday and yesterday, between the Turks and Montenegrins in the Krajina, and near Podgoritza.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY-GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 270.

Consul Kirby-Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, July 11, 1876.

Sir,

THE following are transcripts of two telegrams I had the honour to forward to your Excellency, in cypher, the first yesterday, and the second this afternoon:—

"An encounter took place near Podgoritza. Turks say they repelled the enemy and took three cannons. Heavy fighting is now going on all along the frontier."

"Although the Turks claim successes they appear to have been driven back yesterday both at Krenitza and at Medun, with heavy losses. The Montenegrins have been ordered to repel attacks, and not to advance."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY-GREEN.

No. 271.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 724.) *Therapia, July* 7, 1876.

My Lord,

THIS afternoon I received a telegram from Mr. Consul Blunt, stating that the Servians were advancing in force by the valley of the Ibar upon the Mitrovitza Railway, to cut off the corps under Mehemet Ali Pasha, whose head-quarters are at Sienitza, west of Novi Bazaar. Later in the evening the Grand Vizier sent to inform me that Mehemet Ali Pasha had gained an important victory over the Servians to the north of Novi Bazaar, in their own territory. 1,500 Servians were reported killed, and as many more "hors de combat;" and the whole of the baggage trains had fallen into the hands of the Turks, as well as their entrenched camp, where the engagement had been fought.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 272.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 725.) *Therapia, July 9, 1876.*

My Lord,

AS there is a tendency just now to exaggerate and attach political importance to every occurrence that takes place, some sensational account respecting the Island of Scio may, perhaps, reach Her Majesty's Government.

I received about a fortnight ago, through the Acting Consul at Smyrna, telegraphic intimation that great excitement and fear prevailed there in consequence of the murder of a Greek subject by a Turkish policeman; and at my request Admiral Drummond dispatched a vessel to the island, where an Austrian and Italian ship-of-war had already arrived.

I have since received the report of the Vice-Consul, from which it appears that the murder produced a panic among both populations—the Christians being in an immense majority, which, but for the firmness of the authorities, might easily have led to serious consequences.

Each believed itself about to be attacked by the other; but when it was seen that neither had any intention of the kind, confidence was quickly restored.

The Greek Minister tells me that he has every reason to be satisfied with the proceedings of the Turkish authorities. The murderer was arrested, and has been condemned to death, but my colleague says that the crime, although unprovoked, not having been premeditated, he does not intend to press for the execution of the capital punishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 273.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 728.) *Therapia, July 10, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 29th of June, I have the honour to inform you that Safvet Pasha tells me that he has signified to the Roumanian Agent the compliance of the Porte with the request of his Government that Turkish gun-boats should not be sent to that part of the Danube which separates the Servian and the Roumanian territories.

The Porte, in thus complying with the wishes of the Roumanian Government, has done so on the distinct understanding that they engage themselves to prevent the passage of men or supplies to the revolted Principality, and also that they will facilitate the transmission of provisions to a small Turkish fort situated on one of the islands in that part of the river.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 274.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 730. Confidential.) *Therapia, July 11, 1876.*

My Lord,

FOR some days past the most alarming rumours have been current about the state of the Sultan's health, and the mystery made about his illness has added to the uneasiness that is felt.

The Ministers being kept in the same ignorance as the public, I directed Dr. Dickson to endeavour to ascertain from the Sultan's Physician, with whom he is well acquainted, what was the real state of the case.

I have much satisfaction in forwarding to your Lordship herewith Dr. Dickson's report, from which it would appear that there is no ground for anxiety or alarm, and I will

only add that Dr. Dickson tells me that Dr. Capoleone expressed perfect confidence that His Majesty would be restored to health very shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 274.

Dr. Dickson to Sir H. Elliot.

Constantinople, July 10, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that I called this morning on Dr. Capoleone, the Sultan's physician, at Dolmabahtché Palace, to enquire after the health of His Majesty Sultan Murad.

Dr. Capoleone told me that the Sultan was in very good health at the time he came to the throne, and continued so until Sunday the 4th of June, when, on hearing of Abdul Aziz's suicide, he was so much shocked at the event that he became sick, and threw up his breakfast.

Two days later a small carbuncle showed itself on the back, over the left shoulder blade, and this was followed by the manifestation of three small boils, in various parts of his body—on the nose, chest, and right arm. By means of leeches and emollient poultices the carbuncle was converted into a healthy suppurating sore; but at this stage shivering fits ushered in a quotidian ague, which subsequently assumed a remittent type.

His Majesty has been subject to ague while living as a Prince at Haydar Pasha.

Under a treatment of quinine and tonics the fever has entirely left him, and the carbuncle and boils have healed; but His Majesty's strength has been very much shaken by this illness, so that he was obliged to be supported by his brother-in-law, Noori Pasha, Grand Marshal of the Palace, when he attended the midday prayer last Friday in the Validé Mosque at Dolmabahtché.

Dr. Capoleone however assures me that His Majesty is now convalescent, and will regain his usual health in a few days' time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. R. DICKSON.

No. 274*.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 732.) *Therapia, July 11, 1876.*

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will before this be in possession of Mr. St. John's despatch No. 71 of the 1st instant, inclosing a copy of M. Cogalniceano's intimation to the Roumanian Agents abroad of the demands which he proposes to make upon the Porte, with the threat that if they are not attended to the Roumanian Government would be forced to adopt an attitude very different from the friendly line which it had hitherto followed.

I inclose a Memorandum which I have drawn up commenting upon these demands, the most important of which appear to me wholly inadmissible, as well as beyond the competency of the Porte to decide, as amounting to serious infractions of existing Treaty arrangements.

There is no use in attempting to blind ourselves to the fact that it is no longer possible to apply strictly to the Principalities the arrangements come to by the Powers twenty years ago.

They have been permitted or encouraged (not always wisely, in my opinion) to break through those international engagements on many previous occasions, and we must accept the position as we find it.

Their present and very natural wish is to obtain their recognition as a totally independent State, although still tributary to the Porte, and securing in return for the tribute the benefit of being included in the guarantee enjoyed by the Turkish Empire.

I myself see no great objection to this as regards the interest of either Turkey or Europe in general; but so great a change in arrangements deliberately concerted by the European Powers assembled in Conference, and consigned in formal Treaties, could not be made in a less formal manner.

A question would doubtless arise whether, if so great a step was taken, it would not be advisable to go still further, and establish the perfect independence of the Principalities without tribute or guarantee; and upon it much might be said upon both sides.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 274[a].

Memorandum by Sir H. Elliot on the Roumanian Demands.

I. *Reconnaissance de l'individualité de l'Etat Roumain et de son nom historique.*—It is not clear what is meant by the individuality of Roumania; but with regard to the claim to the recognition of the historical name, it is to be remembered that its present designation was not given by the Porte, but was decided upon after some discussion in a European Conference—the 1st Article of the Convention of August 1858 laying down that the future denomination should be that of the "United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia."

The Porte has shown a needless unwillingness to consent to the name being changed, from a reluctance, the Ministers say, to see any alteration in the Treaties, the strict observance of which is so essential to the Empire.

As a matter of fact the Roumanian Government have nothing to bring forward in support of this demand, but their pretensions have unfortunately been encouraged by several Governments, which have not hesitated to use a title objected to by the Suzerain Power, and contrary to the designation of the Treaties to which they are parties.

II. *Admission du Représentant de Roumanie dans le Corps Diplomatique.*—The IXth Article of the Convention of 1858 prescribes the mode of communication between the Principalities and the Porte, and with the Guaranteeing Powers. It is there stated that the Government of the Principalities should have at Constantinople Agents through whom their communications to the Porte should be made; and who, if occasion should arise, should address the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers.

Here again, however, some foreign Governments encouraged a departure from the rule prescribed by the Treaties, and received Diplomatic Agents from the Principalities, through whom, instead of through the Agent at Constantinople and through the foreign Representatives, matters of interest were treated.

The position of the Suzerain Power was thus weakened, and the Principalities encouraged to put forward the demand a direct diplomatic representation, such as is allowed to independent States.

The right of the Roumanian Government to claim it cannot be admitted as long as existing Treaties are supposed to be in force, and whether it could properly be conceded to a vassal State is a question that requires consideration.

III. *Négociations relatives à la position des sujets Roumains établis en Turquie à l'instar des autres sujets étrangers, et reconnaissance de la juridiction des Agents de Roumanie sur leurs nationaux.*—It would be desirable that an understanding should be come to in reference to the status of Roumanian subjects in Turkey, but it is improbable that the Porte would consent to put them upon the footing of the subjects of the Powers whose right are secured by Treaty.

IV. *Inviolabilité du territoire Roumain et délimitation des îles du Danube.*—The inviolability of the Roumanian territory is already sufficiently provided for by Treaty, and I am not aware of the Turks having disregarded it; but the delimitation of the islands on the river ought to be equitably carried out.

V. *Conclusion avec la Turquie de Conventions de Commerce, d'Extradition de Malfaiteurs, Postale, et Télégraphe.*—As soon as foreign Governments concluded independent Conventions on these matters with the Principalities, it seemed to follow as a matter of necessity that the Porte would have to take the same course.

VI. *Reconnaissance du passeport Roumain et abstention des Consuls Turcs de s'immiscer dans les affaires concernant la Roumanie à l'étranger.*—There seems no reason why Roumanian passports should not be recognized, and the Turkish Consuls directed to abstain from mixing in the affairs of Roumanian subjects abroad if the Government of the Principalities desire it; but foreign Governments would not at present be justified in giving exequaturs to Roumanian Consular Agents.

VII. *Fixation de la frontière entre la Roumanie et la Turquie aux embouchures du Danube, en prenant pour base le "thalweg" de bras principaux et fleuve.*—From the wording of this demand it would appear that it is for the cession of the district from the Kilia to the Sonlina branch of the Danube, which is now the principal one.

It need hardly be observed that even if the Porte were disposed to consent to such a proposal—of which there is not the most remote chance—it would have no power to grant it. By the Treaty of the 19th of June, 1857, to which all the Guaranteeing Powers are parties, it was expressly stipulated that the islands of the delta of the Danube, instead of being annexed to Moldavia, should be placed under the direct sovereignty of the Porte.

The decision was come to in order the better to insure the free navigation of the river, and the European Powers will not be ready to consent to the arrangement being touched.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Therapia, July 11, 1876.

No. 275.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 735.)
My Lord. *Therapia, July* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adrianople, informing me of a report current there that the Bashi-Bazouks, whom the authorities are trying to enlist, will be paid by Her Majesty's Government.

I have informed Mr. Dupuis that there is no truth in this report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 275.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Adrianople, July 6, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the town crier, while beating up for recruits, Bashi-Bazouks, and other volunteers, for service on the Servian frontier, the last two days, gives out that these troops will be paid by the British Government.

Whether the public crier is executing his instructions, or is making use of a ruse to encourage enlistment, I am not informed.

I scarcely know whether I should acquaint your Excellency that Prince Ypsilanti, in charge of the Russian Consulate here, on whom I called yesterday on his return from Constantinople, observed to me rather suddenly, but jokingly at the same time, in the presence of the French Consul, that this Vice-Consulate was engaged in paying Bashi-Bazouks for deserters.

Although I am inclined to believe Prince Ypsilanti could only have been jesting when he made this remark, still he may have intended to convey some reproach to English policy in Turkey.

Both the Ottoman and the Greek of this office have been questioned by the public as to the truth of the crier's announcement, one individual remarking that if such was the case he would enlist immediately, but not otherwise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

No. 276.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 736.)

Therapia, July 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of official telegrams, communicated by the Porte to the local newspapers, from the 4th to the 13th instant, respecting the war with Servia and Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 276.

Turkish Official Telegrams from the Seat of War, July 3—12, 1876.

Télégramme adressé à Son Altesse le Grand Vézir, par Rifaat Pacha, Gouverneur de Widdin, en date du $\frac{21\text{ Juin}}{3\text{ Juillet}}$ 1876.

J'ai reçois à l'instant une dépêche télégraphique du Général de Division Osman Pacha, commandant le Corps d'Armée de Widdin. Elle m'informe que le Général est parti hier d'Adlié, et qu'il a livré un combat aux Serbes près du village Svor, en Serbie, combat qui a duré jusqu'à 1 heure et demie du soir, à la Turque. Les Serbes ont subi des pertes sensibles. Aujourd'hui, le Général marche sur le village de Zaïtchar.

Je soumettrai à votre Altesse les informations qui me parviendront subséquemment.

J'ai pris soin d'informer aussi le Gouverneur-Général du Danube du combat qui vient d'avoir lieu.

Constantinople, le $\frac{21\text{ Juin}}{3\text{ Juillet}}$ 1876.

Télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte par le Gouverneur de Widdin, en date du $\frac{21\text{ Juin}}{3\text{ Juillet}}$ 1876.

Le Caïmakam d'Adlié m'informe toute à l'heure que le Corps d'Armée de Widdin a engagé ce matin à 8 heures à la Turque, au village d'Ilwouz, près de Zaïtcha, un combat qui a duré sept heures. Les Serbes se sont retirés, en laissant sur le terrain plus de deux mille morts. Les troupes Impériales ont pris les retranchements élevés par l'ennemi. Détails prochainement.

Constantinople, le $\frac{21\text{ Juin}}{3\text{ Juillet}}$ 1876.

Un télégramme adressé par le Gouverneur-Général de Scutari d'Albanie, Ahmed Hamdi Pacha, au Ministre de la Guerre, en date du 3 Juillet, dit: "Je viens de recevoir du Commandant de Podgoritza la nouvelle suivante:—

"Hier, les Monténégrins se sont réunis dans un endroit situé à trois quarts d'heure de distance de Podgoritza et ont commencé les hostilités. Quatre compagnies de troupes régulières sont allées à leur rencontre: elles ont été soutenues d'abord par deux compagnies de redifs et ensuite par les troupes de Podgoritza et de Grod.

"Le combat a duré de 3 heures et demie du soir jusqu'à la nuit.

"Nos pertes sont de huit hommes tués et trente-deux blessés. Parmi ces derniers se trouvent deux Lieutenants.

"L'ennemi a eu 300 hommes mis hors de combat, dont un Capitaine."

Télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte, en date du 3 Juillet, par le Gouverneur de Nisch.

Le Caïmacam d'Urkub m'informe par télégraphe que l'armée Serbe a attaqué les troupes Impériales, campées dans la plaine d'Urkub, et que celles-ci ont engagé le combat pour repousser l'agression. Les Serbes ne pouvant résister aux attaques vigoureuses des troupes, ont dû battre en retraite et se retirer jusqu'à une heure de distance. Le combat commencé à 7 heures, Dimanche, a duré jusqu'à 12 heures et demie du soir à la Turque. Nos troupes combattaient derrière leurs retranchements. La reconnaissance faite aujourd'hui a constaté qu'il y avait sur le terrain 500 morts Serbes.

En Albanie, on n'a pas vu la présence des troupes ni des insurgés Serbes. Un nombre assez considérable de fusils rayés appartenant à l'ennemi ont été pris par nos troupes pendant le combat.

Télégramme adressé au Ministère de la Guerre, par son Excellence Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha, Commandant des Troupes Impériales de l'Herzégovine et de la Bosnie, en date du $\frac{\text{[illegible]}}{\text{[illegible]}}$ 1876.

Il résulte de deux dépêches que je reçois à l'instant de Salih Zekki Pacha, sur les faits d'armes qui ont eu lieu à Bellina jusqu'à hier soir, que l'ennemi n'a pu résister dans l'engagement, et qu'il s'est retiré à Atidjé, où il avait élevé des retranchements. Les troupes Impériales, ayant placé des éclaireurs, se tinrent sur la défensive, mais aucune agression de l'ennemi eut lieu jusqu'à 10 heures et demie ce matin. Nos troupes ont vu l'ennemi marcher vers Bellina.

Dans le combat d'hier, nos officiers et soldats ont fait preuve de grande bravoure. Nous avons eu cinquante blessés et dix morts. On estime les pertes de l'ennemi à 200 morts et à plus de 400 blessés. Nos troupes ont pris à l'ennemi 200 fusils à aiguille. Les prisonniers pris par les troupes Impériales ont déclaré que l'ennemi comptait trois bataillons de troupes régulières, cinq bataillons de réserve et six bataillons de volontaires. Son artillerie était composée d'une vingtaine de canons et sa cavalerie de 120 hommes.

Un bataillon est venu de Yania et de Cozlouk renforcer nos troupes; il est entré ce matin à Bellina, où nous avons aujourd'hui deux bataillons et demi. Trois bataillons, sous les ordres de Moustapha Djélaleddin Pacha, sont partis de Boujduka pour Touzla. Un autre bataillon est parti de Sérajévo avec des troupes auxiliaires.

Télégramme, daté du 30 Juin, et adressé au Grand-Vézirat par le Gouverneur-Général de Bosnie.

Il résulte d'un télégramme du Gouverneur de Travnik qu'une bande de rebelles a fait son apparition aux environs du village de Reblé, district d'Alilovna. Ces rebelles ont attaqué les villages du voisinage et ont brûlé les maisons. L'Adjudant-major Chérif Bey et Mahmoud Bey, Major des Ihtiyats, ont été envoyé contre cette bande avec deux compagnies. La rencontre a eu lieu Dimanche, dans le Balkan du village de Nichan-Keui. Le combat a duré une heure et demie. Cinq des rebelles ont été tués et les autres ont pris la fuite.

Une autre rencontre a eu lieu le lendemain dans le même Balkan, avec une nouvelle bande, forte de 500 hommes. Le combat a duré plus de quatre heures. Les insurgés ont été dispersés laissant quarante morts et autant de blessés, et se sont réfugiés sur le territoire Autrichien.

Dans ces deux combats nous n'avons eu qu'un mort, l'un des habitants Catholiques de Nichan-Keui.

Télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte, par son Excellence Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha, en date du 23 Juin (v. s.).

Je viens de recevoir de Bellina une dépêche de Salih Zekki Pacha en date d'aujourd'hui. Elle m'informe que les pertes de l'ennemi dans le dernier combat sont plus sérieuses que celles qu'on avait estimées d'abord à la hâte. L'ennemi a laissé dans le village de Bellina 200 morts et dans les environs plus de 700 morts. On dit que ses blessés dépassent ce nombre.

Il a perdu aussi un Commandant, plusieurs officiers, et quelques drapeaux. Un de ses drapeaux pris par nos troupes sera expédié à Constantinople. Quatre chevaux de son

artillerie de campagne ont été tués. Les habitants des environs ramassent les fusils que l'ennemi a laissés sur le champ de bataille.

Comme la putréfaction des cadavres avait commencé, les autorités ont pris soin de les faire enterrer aujourd'hui. Des agents seront expédiés pour en faire autant dans tous les environs.

Nos pertes consistent en quarante morts et soixante-dix-neuf blessés. Nous avons eu en outre 12 chevaux de tués. Les forces Impériales concentrées aujourd'hui à Bellina sont : une batterie de canons, trois détachements de cavalerie, trois bataillons d'infanterie, et un grand nombre de troupes de réserve qui arrivent successivement dans ce village.

Télégramme adressé à Son Altesse le Grand Vézir, par Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha, Commandant-en-chef des Troupes de Bosnie et d'Herzégovine.

Mehmed Aly Pacha, Commandant de la division de Bosnie, vient de m'adresser un télégramme, daté du 6 Juillet, que je m'empresse de vous communiquer textuellement :

"Aujourd'hui, Jeudi, vers 2 heures du matin à la Turque, je suis parti de Novi-Bazar avec six bataillons et 12 pièces d'artillerie dans le but d'attaquer, par le village de Kladindja, l'échelle de Yavor, avec sur la frontière Serbe. Un autre bataillon devait nous suivre avec le gros bagage. J'ai envoyé aussi un autre détachement composé d'un bataillon de troupes régulières et de 500 soldats Ihtiyat, sur Bonbarka, forêt de la frontière, et sis à une heure et demie environ de Kladindja. Ce détachement, qui a reçu l'ordre de faire des incursions sur les caracols et les villages Serbes d'en face, s'est acquitté de sa mission pendant la nuit.

"La route de Kladindja avait été précédemment réparée. Mais les pluies qui n'ont cessé de tomber depuis vingt jours l'ont transformée en un véritable bourbier, ce qui a entravé beaucoup notre marche. Les roues des équipages d'artillerie s'enfonçaient dans la boue, et il a fallu les efforts inouis de nos soldats pour les faire avancer. C'est ainsi que nous avons mis dix heures pour faire un chemin qu'on franchit d'habitude en trois heures.

"Arrivé à Kladindja à 12 heures à la Turque, j'ai hissé sur les retranchements quatre compagnies des rédifs du bataillon de Cassanzaki, et j'ai donné l'ordre à mes soldats d'occuper les hauteurs en avant du village. En ce moment un corps Serbe fort de 18 bataillons avec 30 canons, a apparu en marche sur les hauteurs voisines, en partie démasquant du défilé de Yavor. Les Serbes ont commencé l'attaque en manœuvrant pour couper notre ligne de retraite.

"Un combat acharné s'est engagé alors pendant lequel nos soldats ont déployé une bravoure et un entrain admirables. Il était 5 heures de la nuit. A 7 heures, les canons qui étaient restés dans le vallon sont arrivés sur le champ du combat, traînés à bras par nos soldats. En même temps arrivait aussi le détachement dont j'ai fait mention. Alors, dans un élan suprême, nous avons attaqué vigoureusement le corps Serbe sur toute la ligne et à 9 heures de la nuit, les Serbes ont été contraints de battre en retraite, et de se retirer dans leurs fortifications de l'échelle de Yavor.

"On m'informe que les Serbes ont eu plus de 4,000 morts et blessés. Ils ont eu aussi un grand nombre de chevaux tués. Nos soldats continuent à ramasser sur le champ de bataille des armes et toute sorte d'objets d'équipement en très grande quantité. Nous entendons encore de temps à autre des détonations lointaines.

"Je constaterai nos pertes, et je vous ferai savoir bientôt le chiffre exact, mais je peux affirmer dès à présent qu'elles sont en morts et en blessés de beaucoup inférieures à celles de l'ennemi."

Mehmed Aly Pacha occupe le champ de bataille de Yavor sur le territoire Serbe.

Télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte, par le Gouverneur de Widdin, en date du $\frac{25\text{ Juin}}{7\text{ Juillet}}$ *1876.*

Le Commandant du Corps d'Armée de Widdin, et le Caïmacam d'Adlié, m'informent que le Colonel Hassan Bey, ayant sous ses ordres 3 bataillons et 300 cavaliers, a livré hier un combat aux Serbes, près du poste de Caïadolcha. L'ennemi a pris la fuite avec une perte de 300 hommes, parmi lesquels se trouve aussi leur Chef. Les troupes Impériales ont eu vingt-six morts et trente-cinq blessés.

Télégramme adressé à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, par Haïdar Effendi, en date du 7 Juillet, 1876.

Un combat a eu lieu hier près de Sénitza dans le sandjak d'Yéni-Bazar. Aux forces Serbes qui s'élevaient à 15,000 hommes, le Général de Division Mehmed Ali Pacha a opposé huit bataillons de troupes régulières. Les Serbes défaits se sont retirés, poursuivis par nos troupes dans leurs retranchements. Ils ont laissé sur le champ de bataille 1,500 morts et autant de blessés, ainsi qu'une quantité considérable de fusils et de munitions.

Télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte, par le Général Méhemed Sadik Pacha, en date du 26 Juin (v. s.), 1876.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Kiamilowski Bey nous informe par télégraphe que les Serbes ont attaqué hier à huit heures et demie à la Turque le rempart d'Ekki-Kilissa, faisant partie des fortifications de Yéni-Bazar. Après deux heures de combat, les troupes Impériales ont mis en déroute l'ennemi, qui a laissé sur le champ de bataille plus de 500 morts et un nombre considérable de fusils et de gibernes. Il y a eu aussi des blessés en grand nombre. L'ennemi avait placé un canon sur la hauteur sise en face de notre rempart, mais il n'a pu le tirer que cinq fois seulement ; avant le sixième coup, un boulet de notre artillerie a mis le canon de l'ennemi en pièces.

D'autre part, les Serbes ont élevé des retranchements en face de notre enceinte et de nos fortifications Sokidja, où ils ont placé aussi deux canons. Sur ce point, le combat a commencé aujourd'hui à 10 heures à la Turque. Nous aurons l'honneur de rapporter bientôt le résultat de cette action.

Télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte, par le Gouverneur de Yéni-Bazar, en date du 26 Juin (v. s.), 1876.

J'avais rapporté par mon précédent télégramme les attaques des Serbes, qui avaient essayé d'attaquer les fortifications de Yéni-Bazar, et la marche de nos troupes sur l'ennemi qui voulait élever des retranchements en face de nos positions et de notre caserne à Sokidja. Aujourd'hui, nos troupes divisées en différentes colonnes ont attaqué l'ennemi avec la plus grande vigueur, et livré une bataille rangée qui a duré jusqu'à 4 heures à la Turque, et qui a fini par la défaite complète des Serbes. Nos troupes ont pris un grand nombre d'armes, de canons, et de munitions. Elles n'ont eu que sept morts et quelques blessés. Les Serbes ont laissé plus de 200 morts sur leurs retranchements que nos troupes ont occupés victorieusement.

Télégramme de Mehmed Aly Pacha, Commandant du Corps d'Armée de Novi-Bazar, daté de Obalitza (Serbie), le [illegible], 1876.

Il résulte des bordereaux dressés et signés par les Majors de nos bataillons que nos pertes dans le combat d'hier sont de 50 morts et de 187 blessés. En dehors des armes et des effets que les habitants Musulmans des villages voisins (qui se trouvaient à la suite des troupes) ont ramassés sur le champ de bataille, on vient de m'apporter encore 467 fusils à aiguille, 80 caisses de munitions, des sabres d'officiers et une masse d'objets d'équipement.

Je distribuerai les fusils et les munitions aux troupes auxiliaires que j'attends d'un moment à l'autre de Prizrend.

D'après les reconnaissances de mes officiers, les forces ennemies étaient de 24 bataillons. L'objectif de l'ennemi était d'attaquer et de cerner Sénitza et d'opérer ensuite sa jonction avec les Monténégrins. Leur but n'a pas été obtenu. Nos forces étaient seulement de sept bataillons et demi. Nous ne devons donc ce succès éclatant qu'à l'assistance divine et à la bravoure de nos soldats.

Le corps d'armée Serbe a été tellement démoralisé qu'il n'a pas osé même ramasser et enterrer ses morts, qui s'élèvent à 1,500, sans compter les blessés, dont le chiffre est égal à celui des morts.

L'ennemi est actuellement occupé à élever de nombreuses fortifications à Yavor. Il se met sur la défensive.

Télégramme adressé à son Altesse le Grand Vézir, par le Gouverneur-Général de Bosnie, en date du 9 Juillet, 1876.

Je m'empresse de faire savoir à votre Altesse que, d'après un télégramme que je reçois du Mutessarif de Behké l'Adjudant-Major Ismaïl Agha et le Chef du corps du réserve accompagnés de troupes suffisantes se sont rendus aux environs du village Sobin où se trouvaient les insurgés.

Après un combat de deux heures les rebelles attaqués vigoureusement par nos soldats ont pris la fuite sur le territoire Autrichien, laissant sur le terrain dix morts, sans compter ceux qui sont tombés sur la montagne, et dont le nombre reste encore inconnu. Nos troupes n'ont eu que deux soldats blessés. L'Adjudant et le Chef ont ensuite marché sur Grakostza.

Télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte, par Rifaat Pacha, Gouverneur de Widdin, en date du 27 Juin (v. s.), 1876.

Le Colonel Hassan Bey a défait une bande Serbe composée de plus de 2,000 hommes dans l'endroit dit Sabahkadi, arrondissement de Belgradjik. Le combat a duré cinq heures. Les Serbes se sont retirés avec de grandes pertes dans un village sur leur territoire, où les troupes Impériales les ont poursuivis. Le village a brûlé pendant le combat. L'ennemi a laissé sur le champ de bataille beaucoup d'armes et de munitions tombées entre les mains de nos troupes. Nos pertes consistent en deux morts et neuf blessés.

Télégramme adressé au Grand-Vézirat, par Ahmed Hamdy Pacha, Gouverneur-Général de Scutari d'Albanie, en date du $\frac{27\ \text{Juin}}{9\ \text{Juillet}}$, 1876.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer du combat qui a eu lieu, Dimanche passé, à une heure de distance de Potgoritza.

Depuis ce combat les Monténégrins ont commencé à venir successivement des Nahiyés de Koutz, de Wassovik, de Petropavlovik et d'autres Nahiyés dans le Nahiyé Ottoman de Koutz, dans le but de soulever la population. Informé de ce mouvement, j'ai dû prendre des mesures pour disperser leurs bandes, et à cet effet j'ai dirigé contre eux de Potgoritza, ce matin, vers 10 heures à la Turque, un détachement composé d'un bataillon d'infanterie de ligne, de deux bataillons de rédifs et des troupes auxiliaires de Scuturi, de Perdigoritza, de Grodoub, de Khout, et de Catrau. Les Monténégrins réunis formaient un corps de plus de 5,000 hommes. Le combat qui s'est engagé a duré quatre heures. Il a fini par la défaite complète de l'ennemi.

Dans ce combat les Monténégrins ont perdu trente-un de leurs principaux chefs. Ils ont eu en outre plus de 400 morts et un nombre double de blessés. Les trophées de nos troupes ont été une grande quantité d'armes de chapeaux d'officiers et Monténégrins.

Les retranchements que l'ennemi avait préparé dans cet endroit pour s'y fortifier ont été détruits par nos soldats, dont les mouvements pouvaient être entravés par l'existence de ces retranchements.

Nos pertes consistent en onze morts et en vingt-cinq blessés.

J'ai pris mes mesures afin que toutes les bandes qui pourraient désormais se réunir aux environs soient immédiatement battues et dispersées.

Telegramme adressé au Sérashérat, en date du $\frac{28\ \text{Juin}}{10\ \text{Juillet}}$ *par Osman Nouri Pacha, Commandant du Corps d'Armée de Widdin.*

Un corps de 2,000 rebelles (1) avait entouré, aux environs de Belgradjik dans l'endroit dit Cadi-boghaz (défilé du Cadi), le Lieutenant-Colonel Emin Bey à la tête d'un bataillon et demie. J'ai envoyé immédiatement quatre bataillons, sous le commandement du Colonel Hassan Bey, qui, arrivé sur les lieux, a engagé, hier matin, le combat. Après une lutte de cinq heures les Serbes ont été mis en déroute, et Hassan Bey s'est emparé du village Serbe Kourito, habité par 300 familles. Pendant l'action ce village a brûlé. Notre troupe a pris tous les bestiaux et a ramassé sur le champ du combat 300 fusils et une quantité considérable de munitions.

Dans ce combat, les Serbes ont essuyé des pertes considérables. Nous avons eu deux soldats morts et huit blessées. La troupe auxiliaire n'a eu qu'un blessé.

Le Colonel Hassan Bey avec sa troupe a reçu l'ordre de marcher sur les rebelles qui

se sont réunis à Tchoka-capoussou en Serbie et de faire sa jonction avec le Général de Brigade Ahmed Pacha, qui est parti de Widdin avec trois bataillons d'infanterie de ligne, un régiment de cavalerie, et une batterie de canons. Le Colonel Hassan Bey sera arrivé à Tchoka-capoussou, lorsque le Général Ahmed Pacha aura cerné par derrière, du côté du village de Hafrié, les rebelles qui se sont avancés dans la direction de Widdin.

Télégramme adressé au Sérashérat, en date du $\frac{29\ \text{Juin}}{11\ \text{Juillet}}$ *par Mehmed Aly Pacha, Commandant de la Division de Novi-Bazar.*

Les Serbes ayant élevé une fortification sur une position à une heure au delà de la cabane dite d'Osmau-Bazar, endroit situé au-dessus du village Turc Belnitza, aux environs de la ligne frontière et à trois heures de distance de Senitza, une colonne de soldats " Ihtiyat " de Pester a attaqué et pris d'assaut, hier matin Dimanche, cette fortification. Dans la lutte, nos soldats ont tué vingt-trois Serbes. Ils ont trouvé une centaine de manteaux militaires et une certaine quantité de fusils avec une trompette. Ils sont ensuite retournés. Le hameau Serbe Herdjeké, composé de six maisons, a brûlé.

Le Major Ibisch Agha, qui me rapporte ce fait d'armes, ajoute qu'il a eu six morts et cinq blessés.

Télégramme adressé au Grand Vézir, en date du $\frac{30\ \text{Juin}}{12\ \text{Juillet}}$ *par le Commandant-en-chef du 3me Corps d'Armée (Monastir).*

Je viens de recevoir un télégramme du Général de Brigade, Hussein Pacha. Il m'annonce qu'il est rentré victorieux à Novi-Bazar à la tête de son détachement, cette nuit, vers 3 heures à la Turque.

J'avais transmis précédemment mes instructions par écrit aux officiers du détachement de Soutchanitza. Ils s'y sont conformés. Le Général de Brigade, Hussein Pacha, devant rencontrer l'ennemi le jour de Dimanche, le détachement de Soutchanitza, suivant les ordres qu'il avait reçus, a attaqué, ce même jour, de très bon matin, le camp des Serbes, en avant de Soutchanitza. L'ennemi a été forcé de battre en retraite. Poursuivi par les troupes, il s'est retiré vers le village de Soutchanitza, distant de trois à quatre heures de la frontière Serbe. Là il a été battu et mis en déroute complète. Les fuyards ont laissé leurs armes, leurs munitions, leurs bagages, les bestiaux qu'ils amenaient avec eux pour leurs rations. Ainsi nos soldats ont pris plus de 600 carabines et fusils à aiguille, dix-huit fourgons de munitions et une grande quantité de vêtements militaires.

Une partie de ces fusils et des munitions ont été distribués aux soldats auxiliaires qui s'en sont avantageusement servis contre les Serbes.

Le district est actuellement balayé de rebelles.

Télégramme adressé à Son Altesse le Grand Vézir, par le Vali de Bosnie, en date du $\frac{2\ \text{Juillet}}{14\ \text{Juillet}}$ 1876.

La division massé à Wichsgrad a franchi, ce matin, la frontière et se rencontré une division Serbe près de la ville Konterdeman.

L'action s'est engagée immédiatement et a fini par la prise de cette ville et la déroute complète de l'ennemi.

Notre armée s'est emparée de huit magasins où se trouvaient en dépôt un grand nombre de biscuits, de provisions de bouche, et de munitions de guerre.

Les projectiles ayant communiqué par accident le feu à quelques maisons la ville a entièrement brûlé.

Les pertes essuyées par les Serbes sont considérables. Notre armée est occupée en ce moment à élever des retranchements sur les points où cela est jugé nécessaire.

Une autre division Serbe ayant envahi le territoire Ottoman du côté de Yéni-Varosch elle a été complétement dispersée. On procède à la réparation des lignes télégraphiques qui ont été détruites par les insurgés.

Télégramme adressé à Son Altesse le Grand Vézir, par le Mutessarif de Novi-Bazar, en date du $\frac{22}{10}$ *Juin*, 1876.

Les Serbes qui ont dernièrement franchi la frontière et qui, après avoir été défaits, ont dû regagner leur territoire, ont entraîné, dans leur fuite, la population Chrétienne de deux villages du caza de Mitrowitza, situés sur la montagne.

Cette malheureuse population, composée de soixante familles, s'est vue abandonnée et s'est trouvée sans nourriture et privée de tout secours. Elle a dû envoyer une députation pour implorer le pardon du Gouvernement Impérial en faveur des femmes et des enfants. Ce pardon leur a été généreusement accordé.

Des charriots ont été envoyés pour les rapatrier et Ghico Aghá, Membre du Conseil Administratif de Mitrowitza, a été chargé de veiller à leur retour.

Cette nouvelle m'a été transmise par le Caïmacam de Mitrowitza, auquel je me suis empressé de donner les instructions nécessaires relativement au rapatriement des fuyards et aux garanties qu'ils doivent donner pour l'avenir.

Je lui ai également recommandé de distribuer à ces malheureux des rations suffisantes, selon leur âge, et d'empêcher qu'ils soient molestés.

On s'attend à recevoir d'un moment à l'autre la nouvelle d'une grande bataille qui paraîtrait imminente dans la direction de Widdin.

Fazil Pacha a quitté hier cette forteresse, à la tête de forces suffisantes pour repousser les Serbes qui ont fait leur apparition sur certains points de ce district.

No. 277.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 81. Political.) *Belgrade, July 10, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a Montenegrin officer, Orbnitza, has come over here as Special Envoy of Prince Nicholas, and has gone to the headquarters of the Servian army, and that Colonel Marcovitch, from here, has proceeded in a similar capacity to the Montenegrin camp to accompany the Prince of that country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 278.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 82. Political.) *Belgrade, July 14, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE perusal of different continental journals has convinced me that the accounts and telegrams printed in them from Belgrade and Semlin (called Zimony in Hungarian) are likely to mislead the public, in consequence of numerous inaccuracies inserted in them.

Some of the descriptions of battle are entirely fanciful productions, others are so distorted and exaggerated that it is evident that the greater portion of them, and even the names of some of the commanders, owe their origin to the imaginations of the writers.

During two days a story was believed, not only all over Europe, but even at Belgrade, that an Austrian correspondent had been killed, and his two French companions wounded, in the interior of Servia; this was an abominable hoax, for which there was not the slightest foundation, and I have been told that there is some probability that the real author of this culpable deception was the party whose death was reported in the mendacious telegram sent to Belgrade from Yagodina.

Another forgery, which has greatly hurt the feelings of the Servian authorities, has been perpetrated in some German journal by the insertion of two translations of proclamations addressed to the Bosniacks and to the Bulgarians.

In both these a great deal was said of reliance on Russian assistance, whilst the former contained a passage about English assistance given to Turkey; the Slav (printed) originals of both these documents are in my hands, and differ entirely from the German translations, and do not contain any allusions either to Russia or to England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 279.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 83. Political.) *Belgrade, July 15, 1876.*

My Lord,

A FORTNIGHT has elapsed since the commencement of hostilities between Servia and Turkey, and numerous, more or less sanguinary, engagements have been reported, but nothing appears to have occurred which would give either party a decided advantage in any direction, or enable us to conjecture anything with regard to the duration of this contest.

One thing is certain, that the Servians have, with the exception of the localities about Nisch, where they appear to have surprised the Turks, been confronted everywhere by a determined resistance, and that they have to admit the preponderance of their enemies in soldierly qualities, equipment, and superiority of firearms, though their numbers may have been at first inferior.

The momentary advantage gained by General Tchernaieff about Nisch, does not appear to have been followed by any bold move, as was expected. That General, with the largest Servian force under his command, 40,000 or 50,000 men, has from some hitherto unexplained cause, remained in apparent inaction since; probably on account of the necessity of protecting the divisions operating on his right and left.

The one on his left, under Colonel Leschnin, consisting of about 15,000 men, bravely defended the passage of the Timok, opposite to Widdin, and succeeded even in sending some flying columns across into Bulgarian territory. The strength of this corps has been doubled since, but as the Turkish force opposed to it has at the same time received considerable reinforcements, an important engagement may be expected in that locality almost daily.

The Servian districts about Saitchar and Negotin are considered most exposed to a Turkish invasion, and in the original plan of the present campaign, subsequently modified, it was proposed to abandon them without a struggle.

From the turn which the campaign has taken, and the successful resistance of Colonel Leschnin up to the 13th instant, it is probable that the Turkish Generals will, on their part, renew their efforts and endeavour to force a passage from Widdin; if successful in this a decisive battle will have to be fought soon after in the valley of the Morava.

On the right wing of General Tchernaieff, General Zach was defeated in the valley of the Ibar, having been surprised on his march; and though some of his flying columns are said to have penetrated into Turkish territory, their fate is doubtful as long as they remain unsupported.

The operations of General Zach and of Colonel Alympitch, the latter on the Drina and at Belina, were conducted chiefly with a view to promote an insurrection in Bosnia. Those of the latter appear to have been partly successful; but, of course, attempts of this kind are conducted with great secrecy, and the presence of a numerous Mussulman fanatical population renders this one most perilous, not only for the invading force, but mostly for the scattered Christian inhabitants; it is, therefore, impossible to prognosticate its probable result.

The entire fighting force of Servia was calculated a fortnight ago at 100,000 men, inclusive of the foreign legion. But all the reserve men have been enrolled since, and these must have increased the army to 140,000.

It must be, however, remembered that a very small fraction of these have had the training of soldiers, in fact, every man of the military age has been armed.

The number of wounded up to the last returns was said to amount to 2,000, and there is great need of surgeons and for medical appliances for these. There is no statement made as to the number of killed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 280.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July 22.*)

(No. 87. Political.)

Ragusa, July 14, 1876.

My Lord,

NEWS was received here last night of a skirmish yesterday afternoon at Klek between the Turks and the insurgents. It seems to have been of but little importance, but it is reported that fifteen Turkish soldiers were taken prisoners.

The Turkish Consul-General assures me that the troops at Klek are quite in sufficient force to repel any attack.

General Jovanovics' expedition to the Bocche di Cattaro seems to have been productive of little result. As I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 82 of the 11th instant, the fighting portion of the population had already decamped and joined the Montenegrins.

The General told me the day before yesterday that the force under his command in Southern Dalmatia was about to be strengthened by another regiment.

If I may judge by the little that is said to me by the Slavophils, the news from Servia is regarded on the whole as unsatisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 281.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 88. Political. Confidential.)

Ragusa, July 14, 1876.

My Lord,

M. YONINE, the Russian Consul-General here, said to me this afternoon, apparently by inadvertence, that he was much disappointed at not having been allowed to follow the Montenegrin campaign, as he had intended to do.

From this I gather that I was correct in the supposition, communicated to your Lordship in my despatch No. 73 of the 4th instant, that M. Yonine had received by telegraph an order not to remain with Prince Nikita.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 282.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 77. Political.)

Bucharest, July 11, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE just learnt, through a private source, that a Colonel Contelli, a very intelligent officer commanding the 7th Roumanian regiment of Infantry, now stationed at Ismail, in Little Bessarabia, left Bucharest yesterday for Varna, ostensibly for sea-bathing, but in reality to reconnoitre the district of Bulgaria lying between Rustchuk, Varna, and Adrianople.

During the last few days a rumour has been current at Bucharest that the Russians are ready at any moment to cross the frontier, and to occupy these Principalities.

On my putting the question to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, he denied there being any truth in these reports, which, he said, were spread by mischievous persons only to create a panic.

Although the Government of Prince Charles have of late shown a desire to preserve neutrality, not only by expressing themselves openly in the Chambers, but by suppressing the Bulgarian committees, and by refusing to allow arms from Russia to cross their frontier, I cannot (knowing the character of the Roumanians, and that of Prince Charles) but feel sceptical as to their sincerity.

The opinion here is that Prince Charles is watching the turn of events, and that he will side with those who offer him the greatest advantages.

In a conversation I had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, he let drop that they had hitherto persistently resisted all offers and promises made by Russia. This refusal on their part, as your Lordship may well believe, emanates not from any feeling of good will and loyalty towards the Suzerain power—for the Turk is as much detested now as he ever was, especially by Prince Charles—but from motives of prudence and compliance to instructions received from Berlin, as I have been given to understand, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 283.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 78. Political.)

Bucharest, July 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of an article which appeared in the official organ of this place relative to the neutrality of the Danube.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 283.

Newspaper Extract.

LA NEUTRALISATION DU DANUBE.—Le "Moniteur Officiel" publie la note suivante :—

"Par suite de l'initiative prise par le Gouvernement Roumain et grâce à l'appui bienveillant des Puissances Garantes, pour obtenir la neutralisation de la partie du Danube qui forme la frontière Serbo-Roumaine, depuis le confluent du Timok, presque en face de Gruia, jusqu'à Vèrciorova, la Sublime Porte a consenti et elle s'est engagée à donner l'ordre à ses navires de guerre de ne pas dépasser, en amont du Danube, le confluent du Timok. Ainsi, toute cette partie du Danube étant neutralisée, le commerce obtient par cela même toute sécurité.

"Sur la demande du Gouvernement Roumain, le Gouvernement Serbe s'est engagé de son côté à ne pas attaquer l'île et le fortin d'Ada-Kalé, situés au milieu du Danube.

"Le Gouvernement Roumain, à son tour, a pris l'engagement, qu'il remplit avec une religieuse fidélité, de ne permettre sur son territoire ni la formation de bandes ni le passage d'armes et de matériel de guerre destinés à la Serbie. Le Gouvernement Roumain s'est encore donné mission non-seulement de défendre la neutralité de l'île et du fortin d'Ada-Kalé, mais encore de fournir à l'approvisionnement de la garnison et de la population de l'île, graduellement et à proportion des besoins, bien entendu au compte du Trésor Ottoman.

Cette nouvelle importante a été communiquée au Sénat et à la Chambre des Députés.

No. 284.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 13. Political.)

Rustchuk, July 15, 1876.

My Lord,

ONE or two bulletins have been issued here since my last report which are only copies of what are telegraphed and published all over Europe; it is, therefore, needless to trouble your Lordship with more than a *résumé* thereof.

It appears that on the 28th June (old style) a Servian force approached the neighbourhood of Widdin, where they burnt several villages; but on being met by some Turkish battalions, under the command of Kerim Bey, a Colonel, after several encounters of no great importance, they were driven back into Servia with some loss.

Osman Pasha telegraphs that on the 30th June (old style) a body of Servians from Saitchar made an attempt to cut off his retreat, but the Turks discovered their design, engaged, and drove them back upon Saitchar.

Such is the sum and substance of these bulletins, but which are Turkish versions.

Several very sinister reports have been recently circulated here of atrocities said to have been committed at or near Widdin, but so difficult is it to obtain positive proof, and so conflicting are the different versions we hear of the same story, that I do not venture to give them in detail.

As it is now admitted, however, that there are Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians employed in that district, as all along the frontier, and who are apparently left to themselves, I fear that a great deal of what we hear is based on some truth.

It is in vain to attempt to say that these people can be kept under any sort of control, and the worst is, as we now hear, that on several recent occasions in the Widdin district they were actually instigated by authorities there, who, no doubt, would deny this, and the Bulgarians who brought these reports are so terror-stricken that when questioned by any one in authority nothing but a cold denial can be got from them.

Four small monitors have arrived here from the Lower Danube, and leave this day for Widdin.

The same active active embarking of troops, ammunition, and provisions for Widdin continues.

The Commissioners in this vilayet for the trial of the late insurgents continue to make very slow progress. The detention so long in arrest of those who can prove themselves to be not guilty appears to be a very questionable policy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

No. 285.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 483.)

Vienna, July 18, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 285.

Major Gonne to Sir A. Buchanan.

Vienna, July , 1876.

Sir,

THE remarks I have the honour to submit on military events outside the bounds of Austrian Empire must of necessity be expressed with a caution indicative of imperfect information.

From the moment that external Slav influence gave Prince Milan a war Ministry, Servia was cajoled into the belief that fate elected her the champion of Slav Christendom.

The vacillating, unbalanced mind of the young Prince was not proof against flattery, and when the sinews of war were actually placed at his disposal by sympathizing Slav nationalities, we find that Prince Milan determined to risk all in a desperate enterprise.

The people, who had enjoyed a form of civilization for, say, forty years, and began to appreciate the advantage of law and order, were easily repossessed of a savage instinct; and history can hardly produce an instance of greater devotion to an ideal duty. The whole male population took up arms, and allowed itself to be trained and led by foreign Slav adventurers.

The plan of campaign was dictated by the circumstances of the case.

1. It was necessary to take immediate advantage of the frenzy of the moment.

2. It was advisable to carry the scene of horror out of the Servian territory (to avoid the spread of demoralization).

3. It was necessary to show a bold front, and gain some successes, to encourage disaffection and rebellion throughout Turkey.

4. It was necessary to subdivide the untrained Servian masses; partly because numbers were unmanageable with the available staff of officers, and more for purposes of "intendance." The different columns just on or over the frontier are now supplied from given districts.

The strategy of the campaign resolves itself into really the very smallest considerations.

The two main attacks are:—

(1) Those opposite Novi-Bazaar, which employ the bulk of the Turks in Bosnia, encourage revolt, and offer an objective to the Montenegrins, who it is hoped will mask Mostar and the line of the Narenta, and attack Serajevo; (2) which, being led by Tchernaieff, may be supposed the most important, opposite Nies, aims at the establishment of a fortified camp at the entrance to the Balkan Mountains, and commanding the Solic Road. The object in this forward position is to employ a large Turkish force, and to collect an army from Bulgaria, &c.

In neither instance can the Servians at the present moment undertake operations of invasion. They have no means of carrying provisions for more than, say, three days. Their object is to keep their flanks protected and maintain themselves till others come to their assistance. The Servians at Zaicar may be said to belong to the left, or General Tchernaieff's army. On the extreme right of the Servian Drina line, *i.e.*, at Zvornik and Belina, it is necessary to exhibit force, as this is the shortest line between Bosnia and Belgrade. But Belgrade is not the objective of the Turkish army.

Your Excellency has seen that up to this time every attack of the Servians has been met and contained by the Turks. The Servians have no doubt sustained more heavy loss than the Turks, but they have met with no decisive disaster. The Turks, strange to say, had made no offensive plans whilst the Servians threatened; but the chief reason is that they fear an interference on the part of Austria if they invade; and their policy is (as regards the Servians) to allow their courage vent against brick walls and entrenchments whilst they organize.

I am told to expect an offensive movement on the part of the Turks;* and, according all laws and rules of warfare, General Tchernaieff's army would meet with a crushing disaster; but to bring this about the Turkish armies must be moved with rapidity, and must follow up their successes. The troops are not wanting, but the question is whether the officers are capable of energetic and sustained action.

Who can explain the reason why the Turkish army has not been mobilized? Roumania is setting an example in this line which bodes no good for the eventual success of the Turks; but if it were only a question of annihilating the "Slav champion," the Turkish task is not hard. I cannot help thinking that the Turks are by inaction risking their game. The Slav organization is probably more thorough than it looks, and a triumph over the Servian militia may be the last bright page in Turkish military history. I cannot believe that the Slavs will let this great opportunity pass; and the caution of the Turks may rest on a similar conviction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. GONNE,

Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.

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* Two parallel columns to threaten Alvinze, about 40,000 strong each.

No. 286.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 485. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July* 17, 1876.

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship on the 12th instant, that orders had been given by the Austrian Government to close the Gulf of Klek to Turkish vessels, and to prevent arms and munitions of war reaching Montenegro from the Port of Cattaro. I also reported by telegram on the 15th instant, that the Turkish Ambassador had been instructed to remonstrate against the closing of Klek, as an unjustifiable interference with the rights of the Porte; and as an unfriendly act, which could not fail to increase the difficulties of the Porte, in its operations against its insurgent subjects, and the Montenegrin Army, which has entered the Herzegovina.

The Turkish Ambassador having subsequently acquainted me with the result of his interview with Count Andrassy, I further informed your Lordship the same day that his representations, as might have been expected, were unsuccessful.

Count Andrassy would not admit any discussion as to the right of Austria to close the gulf; and he defended the measure, not only as a consequence of the neutral policy adopted by the Government, but as necessary under present circumstances, as Austrian subjects on the frontiers might be exposed to the inconveniences of a war being carried on on a narrow strip of Turkish territory leading to the port, as a large insurgent force has already entered the district; and also because it could not act prejudicially in the interests of the Porte, as the communication between the harbour and the Turkish forces in the Herzegovina could no longer be kept open.

On the 16th instant I learnt from your Lordship that the Italian Government were about to communicate with the Government of Austria-Hungary on the subject, as it had been represented to them that the Roman Catholic population of the Turkish provinces might be exposed to danger if the Turkish troops were unable to protect them from the insurgents and the Montenegrins.

I therefore inquired this morning of the French Ambassador whether his Government had been invited to take any steps in the question, with a view to securing the safety of the Roman Catholics, and I found that he was not aware of any representation of the kind having been made in Paris; and later in the day I met Count Andrassy, who assured me that no communication had been made to him by the Italian Ambassador in favour of the gulf being kept open.

His Excellency at the same time stated to me that he had sent to Count Beust copies of the correspondence which had formerly taken place respecting the right of way through the gulf claimed by the Porte, in order that they might be communicated to your Lordship; and he gave me the same reasons for his closing it at present which he had given to the Turkish Ambassador, observing also, as I had myself previously said to Prince Vogorides, that there being now no political reason why the Porte should abstain from invading Montenegro, a force directed on Cettigné could not fail to cause the retreat of the Prince of Montenegro from the Herzegovina, and render the closing of Klek a matter of little strategical importance.

From what I have since learnt from the Italian Ambassador, his Government appear only to have asked for information on the subject, and he replied there could be no doubt as to the right of Austria to act in the matter as she might consider necessary to her own interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 287.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 476.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July* 18, 1876.

I HAD the honour of referring in my despatches No. 475 of the 15th, and No. 480 of the 17th instant, to rumours which have been revived of the possible annexation of Bosnia to Austria-Hungary, and which are now discussed not only in the press here, but also in foreign journals. Your Lordship is aware that neither the German nor the Magyar subjects of the Emperor would see with satisfaction such an arrangement; but the Emperor is suspected himself of entertaining a different feeling.

His Majesty may possibly not consider an addition to the number of his Slav subjects a source of danger to the Monarchy; and it is only natural to suppose that the acquisition of a new Province would be pleasing to a Sovereign, during whose reign so many losses of territory and position have been sustained by the Empire; but if it be true, as alleged by some journals here, that Prince Gortchakow would not seriously object to such an aggrandisement of Austria, a very great change must have taken place in the feeling of the Russian Government on the subject since I left St. Petersburgh.

In speaking yesterday of the alleged desire of the Bosnian Roman Catholics for annexation to Austria, Count Andrassy said that the Franciscans had prepared a Memorial to the Sultan, protesting against the annexation of the Province to Servia, and declaring that they desired nothing better than to remain Turkish subjects; and that if any new arrangements were necessary, in consequence of the war, they should be restricted to reforms in the administration. This Memorial was submitted, his Excellency said, to a meeting of Roman Catholics, who objected to the alternative of reforms as impracticable, and insisted on annexation to Austria being declared to be the only satisfactory change which could take place in the position of the Province, if its relations with the Porte cannot be maintained.

Count Andrassy merely observed, in giving me this information, that he was glad to find that the Memorial, which, he believed, had been sent to Constantinople, protested against the Province being annexed to Servia; but that the declaration in favour of Austria ought not to have been made.

His Excellency may not have thought it necessary, at the same time, to renew the declaration he has frequently made, of Austria being unwilling to accept such an accession of territory; but he said that if the Turks possess the military means they pretend to have, Servian pretensions might be easily disposed of by the advance of 50,000 men from Nisch, and as many more from Widdin on Kragujevitz; and in that case General Tchernaieff would probably have to visit Turkey as a prisoner before his return to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 288.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 564. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, July* 20, 1876.

THE state of affairs in Turkey continues to cause great alarm in France. It is not, however, respecting the solution of the Eastern question, properly so-called, that anxiety is felt in this country. The distribution of territory and the balance of influence in the Levant are not matters which deeply interest Frenchmen at this moment. They believe, not merely French interests and French influence in the East, but the safety of France herself to be at stake.

They are convinced that Prince Bismarck, in whom they personify all that is ambitious in Germany, and all that is hostile to France, is determined that France shall not restore her strength and resume her high place in Europe, if he can prevent it. They conceive that he is on the watch for a favourable opportunity of attacking France before she has recovered from the effects of the last war. They, perhaps, undervalue the security which they derive from the manifest disinclination of the great body of the German people to engage in a new contest. They are, indeed, nervously anxious that the French Government should not repeat the error of 1870, and itself provoke the enmity of Germany; but they seem to entertain little doubt that, if Prince Bismarck thought the time for a new war was come, he would find the means of arousing the war spirit, and again uniting Germany in hostility to France.

Such being the sentiments prevalent in France, it is natural that the safety of the country should be held to depend mainly upon the influence over Germany exerted in favour of peace by foreign Powers. The French firmly believe that it was the united action of England and Russia at Berlin which alone preserved France from invasion last year. The special object of their fears now is that the complications in the East may produce a disagreement between England and Russia, which may neutralize the influence of those Powers in favour of peace, or even range one or the other of them on the opposite side.

Hardly less apprehension is felt lest the Eastern question should produce a breach between Russia and Austria. The French imagine that, to embroil Austria and Russia in

the East, might very well accord with the designs which they persist in attributing to Prince Bismarck. By this means he might, they convince, carry into effect the plans for annexing the Germany Provinces of Austria to the German Empire, and for completing the destruction of France as a Great Power.

The Duc Decazes has, in general, conducted the foreign affairs of the country in accordance with the public sentiment, and has shown great tact and judgment in avoiding dangerous discussions, without apparently lowering the dignity of France. He has, however, been charged lately with too decided a predilection for Russia, and too restless a desire to play a conspicuous part in the affairs of Europe.

In fact, the general feeling is that France should carefully avoid entangling herself in a close and separate alliance with any one Power, lest by doing so she should promote an opposite alliance between some other equally important Power and Germany. Moreover, the hopes that were fixed so entirely upon Russia for some time after the war, have very much subsided in France, since it has become more and more apparent that, at least during the lives of the Emperors William and Alexander, a breach between Germany and Russia is little to be expected. Public opinion has, in consequence, turned very considerably towards England, and it would certainly not sanction at this moment any union with Russia, so close as to give umbrage to English feelings or to interfere with obtaining English support for France, in case of need.

That the Duc Decazes has been, and is, extremely desirous of standing well with Russia, is certain; and it may perhaps be doubted whether he has not been on some occasions over-active, and too ready to try and play the part of mediator between Governments who were more likely to come to an understanding by direct communication with each other.

But, however this may be, it is certain that his activity has been directed towards good objects. He has earnestly endeavoured to circumscribe the troubles in Turkey; to promote a good understanding between all the Great Powers, and especially between England and Russia; to avoid giving offence to Germany; and, above all, to contribute to the maintenance of the peace of Europe.

And whether or no he has always confined himself within the limits which public opinion, and, it may be added, prudence, prescribe in the present state of France, much allowance is to be made for the constant anxiety under which he has laboured. Calmness and abstinence from action are not easy on the part of a Minister for Foreign Affairs who is under the impression that an error or an omission on his part may expose his country to an invasion which she has but small means of resisting.

At all events, the late speech of the Duc Decazes in the Chamber of Deputies seems to show that he well understands the position of France and the policy in the Eastern question which is called for by the right-thinking part of the French nation.

I had the honour to send your Lordship the complete report of the speech in question in my despatch No. 544 of the 4th instant, but I will nevertheless conclude my present despatch with a quotation from it:—

"Vous disiez, vous demandez," said the Duc Decazes, "que votre Gouvernement ne prenne pas dans cette grande et difficile question, ou à la suite de cette question, une attitude qui puisse ressembler à une initiative, ou qui soit même particulièrement active. Voilà ce que vous demandez à votre Gouvernement, et vous le voulez ainsi, parce que vous croyez, et nous croyons avec vous, que la France a payé cher, trop cher le droit de ne penser qu'à elle-même, et de se consacrer exclusivement à son œuvre d'apaisement et de restauration intérieure, qui doit être son unique, sa continuelle préoccupation et dont rien ne saurait la distraire.

"Et c'est ainsi, Messieurs, que vous ne voulez pas que la France soit mêlée à des complications qui, dans une proportion quelconque, viendraient troubler sa sécurité. Ce désir sera satisfait, nous avons vous l'affirmer."

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 289.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 22.)

(No. 566.)
My Lord, *Paris, July* 21, 1876.

YOUR Lordship was so good as to repeat to me yesterday a telegram from Lord Odo Russell, from which it appeared that he had been asked by M. de Radowitz whether it was

true that Her Majesty's Government had agreed to the proposal of the Duc Decazes for the settlement of the Servian question.

I had this morning the honour to inform your Lordship, by telegraph, that I had no knowledge of any proposal of the Duc Decazes for the settlement of the Servian question.

In fact, neither from the Duke Decazes himself, nor from any other quarter, have I ever heard that he has formed any particular plan for the settlement of that question, or that he has made, or intends to make, any proposal on the subject.

If, therefore, he has made a proposal to Russia, Germany, or any other Power, he has done so without telling me, and without having given me beforehand any hint of his intention.

I may observe, however, that the regular channel for communicating with Her Majesty's Government on the subject would be through the French Ambassador in London rather than through me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 290.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 21, 1876.

GENERAL IGNATIEW leaves Constantinople on Monday on leave of absence. He says that he will be away three weeks.

No. 291.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July* 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 21 *Juillet*, 1876.

HIER sept bataillons d'infanterie avec deux mille miliciens ont, sous le commandement des généraux de brigade Moustafa Djélaleddin et Zéki Pachas, attaqué l'ennemi dans les environs de Bélina. Les Serbes, entièrement défaits, ont abandonné à nos troupes victorieuses leurs retranchements et quatre canons. Ils se sont retirés sur l'île Attinéja, où ils sont exposés au feu de notre artillerie.

No. 292.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received July* 22.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Vienna, July* 22, 1876.

TURKISH Ambassador has received the protest of the Porte against the closing of Klek, but as it merely refers to the rights of the Porte without stating the grounds on which those rights are founded, he has suggested that a statement of these grounds should be added to the protest before it is delivered.

No. 293.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Mallet.

(No. 399.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 22, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador spoke to me this afternoon of the demands which the Moldo-Wallachian Government have made to the Porte. His Excellency said that he believed that Government had been instigated to this course by Germany, and he asked what was the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to the manner in which the demands should be received.

* Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Rome, Constantinople, and St. Petersburgh.

I answered that, in our opinion, the Porte would be unwise to refuse absolutely to entertain these propositions. They would do better to ask for explanations, and so to gain time. I added that this course seemed the more advisable, as several of the questions involved were matters of Treaty obligation, and could not be settled by the Porte alone without the Powers being consulted and giving their consent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 294.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 22, 1876, 11 A.M.*

I HAVE been expressing the opinion to the Porte that it may be hardly possible to settle the questions relating to the insurgent provinces and to Servia and Montenegro without an understanding with the Great Powers, and I have represented that, in the event of a decided success being obtained in the present war, it might be advisable for Turkey of her own initiative to invite them to consider the arrangements that should be made.

It appears to me that this would be more for the dignity and interest of Turkey than to wait till the proposals should be submitted to her acceptance by the Powers.

Some of the principal Ministers seem to agree in this view, but before advocating it further I should be glad to know whether Her Majesty's Government are of the same opinion.

Before a decided success is obtained a reference to the Powers would be regarded as an admission of weakness that the Porte would refuse to make, but after a success it might, perhaps, consent to it if recommended by Her Majesty's Government, whose advice will now be received with great deference.

No. 295.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 22, 1876, 12·15 P.M.*
(Secret.)

I LEARN, upon unquestionable authority, that the Sultan's mind is very seriously affected, and that he has been quite incapable of transacting business for nearly six weeks.

Unless a marked improvement very shortly takes place, some decision in reference to the government of the country will necessarily have to be taken.

No. 296.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 113. Confidential.) *Buda-Pest, July 16, 1876.*
My Lord,

I HAVE been confidentially informed by a person who saw it, that Count Andrassy received, before going to Reichstadt, a communication from France, suggesting an agreement that if Servia and Montenegro were defeated in the war, Europe should allow Turkey to deprive those States of their independence; but, if Turkey were defeated, that she should be requested to grant autonomy to Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 297.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 49. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, July 11, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith inclosed, for the information of your Lordship, copies of my despatches Nos. 70 and 71 of this date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to military operations on the Servian frontier, and to extensive Turkish armaments in Macedonia and Upper Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 297.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, July 11, 1876.*

WITH reference to my cyphered telegrams of the 7th and 9th instant, on the subject of military operations in the valley of the "Ibar," I have the honour to report that very little seems to be known here of the result of these operations.

According to telegrams received here from Turkish sources, the news from the seat of war appears to be as favourable as possible; but I learn from my correspondent at Pristena —a town not far from Mitrovitza—that the Servians had penetrated in force as far as Banitza, about four hours distant from the latter town, the terminus of the Salonica-Uscup Railway, apparently with the design of seizing and impeding railway communication, and of cutting off Mehemed Ali Pasha from his supports and supplies.

At one time, judging from the telegrams received by the authorities here, the enemy nearly effected their design; but the early arrival on the threatened locality of three battalions of infantry, with one battery of horse artillery, shortly after reinforced by strong detachments of Albanian irregulars, enabled the Lieutenant-General, Hussein Husni Pasha, to take all the necessary precautions for the protection of the railway and for keeping open Mehemed Ali Pasha's line of communication. Up to yesterday evening about 25,000 troops, two-thirds of them irregulars, had arrived at Mitrovitza and its vicinity. Two Government transports also arrived yesterday in this port, with four battalions of infantry on board, besides 50,000 Martini rifles, and various military stores. Two of these battalions left early this morning by special train for Mitrovitza, and the remaining two, with the rifles and stores, will be dispatched in the course of the day to the same point.

Ten more battalions are daily expected for service in Mitrovitza, where a separate Army Corps is being formed to be held in reserve in support of the operations against Montenegro and Servia.

Dervish Pasha, the Mushir of the 3rd Corps d'Armée at Monastir, will take the command-in-chief of this army.

Yesterday morning, a circular telegram was received by the Pasha of Salonica from the Grand Vizier, expressing the gratification of the Sultan at the patriotism evinced by his Mahommedan subjects, and conveying His Majesty's commands for the immediate muster for active service of all the Redifs in Roumelia.

There is a sort of a "levée en masse" of the Mahommedan population: in Salonica, Serres, Drama, Uscup, Monastir, Perlepé, Kiupruli, Ochrida, Castoria, Gheorgia, Tirana, Dibra, Prisrend, Ipek, Jacova, Pristina, Comanova, Istip, &c., the people are responding with enthusiasm to the call of the Government for volunteers, and they seem to be rising as one man for the defence of their country and religion. So far the mustering of such large forces in Macedonia and Upper Albania, has not been followed by any fanatical excesses against the Christians.

Some acts of robbery have been committed in the villages; and the railway employés —many of them Croats, Schaves, and Greeks—complain of being badly treated by the Albanian volunteers, but the authorities promptly take repressive measures against the guilty parties.

On the other hand, the future subsistence of these large levies, if not efficiently provided for at once, may be the cause of much inconvenience and suffering to the rural inhabitants. It is a subject which already gives trouble and anxiety to the local authorities, as the Provincial Treasury is not provided with sufficient funds for the purpose.

I should not forget to mention a significant fact in connection with the volunteer corps which are being raised in this Province.

The Governors of Drama and Serres having informed the Pasha of Salonica that Christian peasants were willing to join the volunteer corps, his Excellency immediately telegraphed to them to give every encouragement to such a movement, and has been highly approved by the Porte for so doing. Already, 100 Christians have been enrolled in those two districts, and more are coming forward. In the Province of Janina, a volunteer corps has been raised, composed entirely of Christians of the Chimari tribe; and, in North Albania, the Latin Albanians are actively supporting the Ottoman troops against the Montenegrins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 297.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, July 11, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of this date, I hasten to report to your Excellency that I have just been informed by a member of the Local Administration that the Pasha of Salonica has received orders from the Porte to organize the volunteer corps on a military footing, and to assimilate them as much as possible to the regular troops.

The Pasha is also authorized by the Porte to draw on the Imperial Treasury for the necessary funds for the provisioning of the troops.

Fifty Bulgarians have enlisted in the volunteer corps of Drama, which is being raised by Tahir Bey, the principal landowner in that Province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 298.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 50. Political.)

Salonica, July 12, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of a Turkish bulletin published yesterday evening by the authorities of this place, relative to recent successes of the Turkish troops in their operations against the Servians and Montenegrins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 298.

Translation of Turkish Bulletin published at Salonica, on Tuesday, the 11th of July, 1876.

THE following is a copy of the telegraphic report addressed to his Excellency the Governor-General of Salonica by the Ferik (Lieutenant-General) Hussein Husni Pasha, dated Mitrovitza, July 10, 1876:—

"I have just received a telegram from Major-General Hussein Pasha reporting that, after signally defeating the Servians yesterday evening, he effected his entry into Novi-Bazaar at the head of his detachment.

"According to secret orders which I had dispatched to the officer commanding our troops in vicinity of Sossanitza to act in connection with a forward movement to be made by Hussein Pasha on Sunday morning the 9th instant, the said troops attacked the Servians on the appointed day and forced them to retire, pursuing them as far as the village of Soutchantza, about three hours distant from the frontier, and there dispersed them. The enemy left in our possession 600 needle guns, 18 horse-loads of ammunition, and other military stores. The needle guns and ammunition were at once distributed to the volunteers who were acting with our troops, and were made good use of by them against the retreating Servians.

"In communicating the above details, I have the satisfaction to report to your Excellency that, under the auspices of our Sovereign, this part of the country is now free from the presence of insurgents."

Further Telegram from the Lieutenant-General Hussein Husni Pasha, dated Mitrovitza, July 11, 1876.

"Yesterday a very sanguinary battle took place near frontier and about six hours from Yeni-Bazaar. The Servians are surrounded. The division at Sienitza is moving down upon them."

Telegraphic Report from the Governor-General and Commander-in-chief of Scodra, to the Governor-General of Salonica, dated July 10, 1876.

"Since I communicated to your Excellency the details of the engagements on Sunday the 2nd instant in vicinity of Podgoritza, the Montenegrins gathered at Kotsche, Wassoritch, and other points on both sides of the border, evidently with the intention of there establishing their base of operations against us. I determined to prevent this, and with this object in view I dispatched to the spot, this morning at 5 o'clock A.M., 1 battalion of regular troops, and 2 battalions of Rediffs, supported by the volunteers from Scodra, Podgoritza, Grudi, Rod Matissa, and Castrati.*

"There were more than 5,000 Montenegrins entrenched in the positions they had selected and occupied. They were at once attacked by the Imperial troops and volunteers, and after a contest which lasted four hours, they were vanquished and forced to disperse.

"The heads of 31 Montenegrin notorious Chiefs (the report compares them to scorpions) were taken during the action and more than 400 of the enemy were killed, and about twice that number wounded by our bullets. They also left many rifles, ammunition, and officers' accoutrements behind them. On our side only 11 were killed and about 25 wounded. This small sacrifice of life is manifestly owing to the grace and favour which our glorious Sovereign enjoys."

No. 299.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 51. Political.)

Salonica, July 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the telegrams received this morning from Bosnia by the Pasha of Salonica, and which his Excellency has communicated to me, relative to the military operations against the Servians.

The communications between Mitrovitza and Yeni-bazaar have been re-established.

Two more battalions were despatched this morning by special trains to Mitrovitza, and two batteries of horse artillery which arrived here this morning will be sent there in the course of the day.

Four battalions are expected to-morrow, and six more next week, all destined for Mitrovitza.

Dervish Pasha has been appointed to the command of the army in Bosnia, and is replaced at Mitrovitza by Ali Saib Pasha, formerly Minister for War.

Moukhtar Pasha will command the army in the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 299.

The Governor-General of Bosnia to the Governor-General of Salonica.

(Télégraphique.)

Bosnie, le 12 *Juillet,* 1870.

JE m'empresse de porter à votre connaissance que d'après les nouvelles exactes que j'ai récemment reçues les troupes Impériales qui se trouvaient du côté de Vichigrad repoussant l'ennemi entrèrent en Serbie et prirent d'assaut la ville de Kottraman. L'armée Impériale, après s'être emparée et avoir mis en sûreté les huits dépôts qui contenaient de biscuits et des différentes sortes de vivres, incendia la ville; les Serbes ont eu

* Most of these volunteers are Latin Albanians, I believe.—J. E. B.

des pertes considérables, beaucoup d'armes et d'objets divers furent pris par les troupes Impériales.

La place de Kottraman est en train d'être fortifiée par nos troupes.

Les Serbes qui infestaient les environs de Yeni-Varoush furent battus et mis en fuite de sorte que le dit endroit est complètement sauvé du siége. Les travaux de réparations de lignes télégraphiques étant déjà commencés dans quelques heures la ligne sera à même de fonctionner.

Le Gouverneur-Général de Bosnie.
(Signé) WAZIF.

The Governor-General of Bosnia to the Governor-General of Salonica.

Bosnie, le 12 Juillet, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

D'après les avis qui me sont communiqués les troupes Impériales et les volontaires ont attaqué, Samedi passé, les fortifications que les Serbes avaient faites sur la colline de Tschovitza près de Novi-Bazar.

Après un combat de cinq heures les Serbes furent dispersés, laissant sur le champ de bataille plus de 400 morts, autant de fusils, et de gibernes, 387 "pedes" de fortifications, plus de 200 cabans. Le nombre de leur pertes est resté inconnu à cause de la nuit. Nos troupes ont cinq morts et douze blessés.

Avant hier les Monténégrins furent repoussés à Podgoritza, laissant sur les terrains plus de 800 morts.

No. 300.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 23.)

(No. 170. Confidential.)

Athens, July 14, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I had some conversation yesterday evening with the Turkish Minister. He said he was at present well satisfied with the attitude of the Hellenic Government, and seemed to think them sincere in their endeavours to prevent any acts of agression against the Government of the Porte. I said I had heard that intrigues were being carried on from Corfu, with a view of raising the population in Epirus, and I asked him whether he had heard what Colonel Grivas was doing in Acarnania. He said he was not very well informed at present as to what was going on at Corfu, as a new Consul had only lately been appointed there; but that the reports which he received from Yannina did not make him apprehensive of a movement in Epirus, and that he understood that Colonel Grivas was not making any attempt to promote disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 301.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 23, 4·30 P.M.)

Therapia, July 23, 1876, 10·40 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Government has protested against a Turkish vessel at Klek for having fired upon insurgents, although Porte declare their ship to have been within Turkish waters.

The Austrians maintain that the ship, having been admitted to carry stores and men, her firing was unjustifiable.

It is considered here that an attempt to interfere with the action of a Turkish ship in Turkish waters implies a pretence to jurisdiction over them.

No. 302.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 23, 5·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 23, 1876, 10·45 A.M.

(Secret.)

IN a conversation that I had yesterday with the Grand Vizier, His Highness admitted the correctness of the information I gave to your Lordship yesterday about the Sultan's health, but he said there had been a decided improvement within the last few days, and that the doctors do not despair of recovery.

No. 303.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 23, 5·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 23, 1876, 10·50 A.M.

ATTACKS will be made in some English newspapers upon the Embassy, on account of the mission of Mr. Baring to Bulgaria.

I had at first instructed Mr. Wrench to proceed there, but finding that important business would have prevented him from starting for some days, in order to save time I sent Mr. Baring instead, who is fully as well qualified for the service.

As certain newspaper correspondents and others insinuate that the change was made to give the Embassy control over the reports, I think it right that you should be aware of this accusation.

If there had not been some inconvenience in sparing Mr. Baring at that moment, I should in the first instance have selected him for what is Embassy and not Consular business.

No. 304.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 23, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 23, 1876, 11·43 A.M.

I SPOKE yesterday to the Grand Vizier about the excesses of the Bashi-Bazouks in Bulgaria. He reported that most of the excesses had been committed by unauthorized bands, and that the Government was doing its utmost to put them down. Three had already been hanged. A considerable proportion of the villages destroyed were, he says, burned by the insurgents, and the same statement was made to me by a high Roman Catholic dignitary, who had received reports from his Committees.

The Grand Vizier added that the Porte is in possession of evidence, which will now be made public, that the project of the insurgents was the extermination of the Mahomedans in Bulgaria, where they are in a great minority, and that they at once began to carry out their plan, which produced the exasperation that led to the excesses afterwards committed.

I said that this explanation did not account for what was stated to have occurred at Bojadjik, but he declared statements to be untrue.

No. 305.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 23, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Bucharest, July 23, 1876.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs requested me to state that news circulated by the press respecting mobilization of Roumanian army is altogether false.

No. 306.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 90. Political.)
Ragusa, July 15, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of this date, respecting the progress of the Montenegrin army at Gaczko (the text of which is recorded in my immediately preceding despatch No. 89), I have the honour to state that the information it contains is derived from telegrams sent by Prince Nikita to M. Youine; and by the Prince's Secretary to Mr. Stillman, the correspondent of the "Times."

General Iovanovics thinks the news of little importance in a military sense, showing, as it does, that the invaders have made no attack upon the Turkish intrenchments; and M. Youine is of a similar opinion.

General Iovanovics remarked to me this evening that the Montenegrins got on very slowly indeed. He went on to say that the fact was, that although they were formidable when acting in detached corps of 3,000 or 4,000 men, in larger numbers they could not be handled with effect. They had no real order or discipline, and no organization for a regular campaign, nor Generals to conduct it. Excellent as guerillas for mountain warfare, they would require training of a far different kind than they had ever hitherto had, to be really serviceable in field operations. The same observations were recently made to me by the correspondent of a German newspaper, who, after eight days with the Montenegrin army, left them in disgust at their want of order and discipline.

The news from Klek received to-night since the date of my telegram is that the Montenegrins hoped that the fort which commands the road between Klek and Stolacz would have to surrender from want of water. General Iovanovics told me that he knew the fort well, and that it had two wells within the "enceinte," but that he had heard that they had been neglected, and were perhaps choked.

Fifteen Turks, taken prisoners in a skirmish at Klek on the 13th, have been sent here, the Montenegrins not knowing what to do with them. Forty-two Montenegrins, wounded in the same skirmish, are also here, and are, I have been told, to be sent on to-morrow to Cettigné. I asked General Iovanovics if this were true, and he replied that it was no affair of his, but must be arranged by the civil authorities. I said that it seemed to me that all combatants, Turks or Montenegrins, once, and under any circumstances, on Austrian soil, ought to be "interned;" and that the fact, either of their being prisoners of war, or of their being wounded, and so having passed the frontier unarmed, was in my opinion perfectly immaterial as affecting their treatment by the Austrian authorities. It was, however, no business of mine to do any more than express an opinion; and I presumed that application for instructions had been made to the Government at Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 307.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 319.)
Berlin, July 20, 1876.

My Lord,

I REGRET to say that the information received by the German Government confirms the reports respecting the atrocities committed by the Turks in Bulgaria. Count Münster has been instructed to communicate with your Lordship on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 308.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 320. Confidential.)
Berlin, July 20, 1876.

My Lord,

HERR VON RADOWITZ asked me whether it was true that Her Majesty's Government had adhered to the plan put forward by the Due Decazes for the settlement of the Servian and Montenegrin questions, and communicated to the German Government through the Italian Government.

I said that I had no knowledge of the plan he mentioned, but that I felt certain that Her Majesty's Government would not agree to any preconceived settlement of those questions before the war was over, or without previous communication with the German Government.

Herr von Radowitz replied that he had said as much to the Italian Ambassador, who had been informed by his Government that the Due Decazes' plan had already met with the approbation of Her Majesty's Government. The date of his Excellency's information from Rome was the 15th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

July 22.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have received your Lordship's telegram stating that Her Majesty's Government had no knowledge of the French plan alluded to by Herr von Radowitz, and on inquiry I am inclined to think the Italian Embassy has only now received the plans submitted by the Due Decazes to your Lordship soon after the Berlin Memorandum had been rejected by Her Majesty's Government, and that some confusion of dates has led to the impression that the proposal is a new one.

I have explained this to M. de Radowitz, who agrees in thinking my view correct.

O. R.

No. 309.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 321.)
St. Petersburgh, July 17, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Monson's telegram to Sir A. Buchanan, copy of which I received from your Lordship on July 10th, I may observe that private subscriptions are being raised generally throughout Russia in behalf of the Christian Slavs in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and that consequently the Russian bills, amounting to 9,000*l.*, transmitted to the order of the Russian Consul at Ragusa, may probably be destined for the "Members of the Red Cross," who have established hospitals for the sick and wounded in Montenegro and in the vicinity of the seat of war.

Your Lordship is aware that the Prince of Montenegro has received for some years an annual stipend from the Emperor of Russia. Beyond this I do not believe that any funds have been supplied to the Prince of Montenegro by the Imperial Government for war purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 310.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 322.)
St. Petersburgh, July 17, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship three abstracts from the Russian press, in translation by Mr. Michell.

1. The "Golos" refers to the stability of the alliance of the three Empires, observing that England must come to an understanding with the Continental Powers, to avoid a position of isolation, and looks to the triumph of the Russian policy in behalf of the Christian populations of the Balkan Peninsula.

2. An appeal of the Moscow Slavonian Committee for pecuniary assistance in aid of their Slavonian brethren.

3. The "Russki Mir" maintains that the peace of Europe depends on England, and on Turkey, her "distracted ally;" and argues that the presence of the English fleet in Bessika Bay renders a second war in the East both possible and probable at any moment. After reviewing the position of England, it contends for the necessity of a direct understanding between England and Russia on the ground of the Eastern question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 310.

Summary of Article in the "Golós."

(Translation.)

THE "Golós" of July $\frac{8}{20}$ observes in its political review, that the interview at Reichstadt becomes more and more the *point d'appui* of European relations towards the Eastern question, and that at the present moment no one doubts, nor pretends to doubt, the stability of the alliance of the three Emperors.

The present position of the English Cabinet is such that nothing remains for it but to come to an understanding with the Continental Powers if it does not wish to find itself in the same isolated position in which, according to Lord Derby's own confession, it was placed in consequence of the refusal to join the Berlin Memorandum, and out of which it was only rescued by the recent catastrophe at Constantinople.

Thus in the long run, the article proceeds to say, that relation of Europe to Eastern affairs which was initiated from the first by Russia, triumphs.

This, however, is only perfectly natural, as the policy of the Russian Cabinet was founded at once on a feeling of sympathy towards the Turkish Slavs, and on a conviction that the disorderly condition of Turkey, having reached a state of acute crisis, could only be dealt with by an active interference of the Guaranteeing Powers in favour of the Christians of the Balkan Peninsula. A policy founded on these two points could not but triumph over all antiquated attempts to galvanize the body of the Ottoman Empire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 310.

Appeal of the Moscow Slavonian Charitable Committee

(Translation.)

MONSTROUS cruelties; the wildest saturnalia of the most hideous passions; the destruction of young girls by fire, after their outrage and dishonour; the massacre by tens of thousands of harmless inhabitants; the devastation of a whole region by fire and sword; in a word, every description of torment and disaster is now being inflicted on the unarmed Bulgarian population by a fanatically enraged Asiatic horde, which has planted itself on the ruins of an ancient and a great Orthodox Empire, and of other Orthodox Slavonian States.

This horde, this monstrous iniquity, and monstrous falsehood, which in former days was curbed by Russian Sovereigns, but which through envy to Russia and hatred to the Slavonian race, has now again been exalted by the united efforts of the whole of Western Europe, and introduced, be-powdered and be-rouged, into the family of Christian nations; this Turkey again meditates, in the face of all Europe, to trample under foot the Bulgarian race, and to destroy within her own limits the last bulwark of Slavonian nationality, Servia and Montenegro. The cup of patience, even Slavonian patience, has at last overflowed.

The spark ignited by Herzegovinian despair has burst into a broad flame. Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro have seized their arms and rushed into the fray; the last terrible bloody struggle between Slavism and Islam has commenced. For Slavonians this contest is one of life or death; they have determined to attain independence or perish. They have neither sufficient arms, nor money; there is no one to cultivate their fields or to protect their wives and children who have neither food nor shelter. While the English Government is encouraging Turkey with both moral and material aid, and Austro-Hungary shielding Turkey as with an iron wall along the whole of her extended frontier, with the view of preventing the supply of bread and arms to the struggling Slavs, the other Western European Powers remain neutral spectators of the unequal mortal conflict, ready to snatch away the fruits of victory from the Christians, should the Almighty bless their efforts with success.

Why does Europe so long and so obstinately keep these unfortunate races in the chains of ignominious slavery? Why have the Bulgarians and Servians suffered so terribly and so long? Solely because they are Slavonians and of the Orthodox faith; and because they are brethren in faith and race with the Russians. This is the sin for which they are being punished, and they have no protectors in the whole world save Russia alone. But is this not sufficient?

Leaving the solution of this question, as regards its political aspects, to higher powers, the Moscow Slavonian Committee appeals to the public conscience of Russia, and implores aid for the victims of the insurrection, slaughtered for the sin of orthodoxy, for the sin of

uniformity of religion and race with ourselves. We, the society and the people of Russia, can, and have the right only, to assist them with money. From the commencement of the Herzegovinian struggle, the Russian clergy throughout the whole of Russia, from the Archbishop to the rural priest, showed themselves the true and zealous advocates before the Russian people of the necessities of our Slavonian brethren, and eloquently proved that together with a feeling of Christian sympathy, they harbour a lively national feeling, and a correct appreciation of the historical destiny and duty of Russia.

May our highly esteemed clergy give their co-operation to the Committee in the present case, and may they commence the collection of new contributions with a prayer for success to our brethren, and victory over their enemies.

[Here follows a list of persons to whom donations can be forwarded.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 310.

Summary of Article in the "Russki Mir."

(Translation.)

THE "Russki Mir" contains the following article on the subject of England and Russia:—

"The preservation of the peace of Europe may be said to depend solely on England and on Turkey, her distracted ally.

"As long as the British fleet remains near the Dardanelles, and the Turks have grounds for regarding the English as their champions and companions in arms, so long will a second war in the East be both possible and even probable at any moment. We have no accurate information as to the true position of affairs at Constantinople; but in every case it is beyond doubt that a very hostile feeling against Russia predominates at Stamboul and that the position of our Ambassador there must be a very embarrassing one.

A German paper recently reported that a certain Effendi had been sent to Ems to request the recall of General Ignatiew; and though this news has not been confirmed, we are, under present circumstances, in no way secure against similar insolent demands, nor against any unexpected provocation which may necessitate our having recourse to armed intervention for the protection of our Representative and of the interests of Russia. At any other time such a contingency would not lead to any serious results, and would be settled in the usual diplomatic course. The presence, however, of the British fleet in Bessika Bay has inspired the Turks with such boldness and self-reliance that any apparently trifling occurrence may become a compulsory *casus belli* for us. We think that the great continental Powers, and Russia primarily, ought to direct the attention of the Cabinet of St. James to the danger of the continued and unjustifiable presence of the powerful British squadron at the entrance of the Dardanelles, a danger threatening not only the general peace of Europe, but particularly the relations between Russia and England.

"It would, of course, be folly on the part of England to enter into a contest with Russia without sure allies on the continent. . . . . The position of England is not dependent on the sea alone, as India has long since attached her to the continent. It is true that many public writers, both Russian and foreign, consider the possibility of dealing a dangerous blow to the supremacy of England in Hindostan as an empty chimera; such an opinion, however, is not shared by competent authorities generally, nor by the England themselves in particular, in spite of their optimist assurances.

"For the sceptics of our own press we are able to communicate one little fact, to which, now that ten years have passed since its occurrence, publicity may be safely given. After the occupation of Tashkent by our troops, some Envoys were secretly sent to the Russian Commander-in-chief by the late Maharajah of Cashmere for the purpose of ascertaining the further plans of the Russians, and a readiness to co-operate with us in our enterprises was hinted at. We consider that since this took place, the position of things in Central Asia and India, if changed, is more favourable to us than to the English.

"Our readers must be aware that we are not only opposed to any disagreement with England, and to the puerile manner in which some of our raw politicians criticize her mode of action, but that we contend for the necessity of a direct understanding with the English on the ground of the Eastern question.

"Such an understanding may, perhaps, become an accomplished fact sooner than our inappropriately martial Anglophobes, the Anglomaniacs of yesterday, suppose. During the last negotiations between Russia and England, the latter declared her determination not to oppose the emancipation of the Turkish Slavs if they should actually succeed in throwing

off the Mussulman yoke under the leadership of Servia. Public opinion has also almost unanimously declared itself in favour of the oppressed rayahs, in contradistinction to the shameless outcries of the Austrian press. Let us hope that all the efforts of these pitiful enemies of Slavism and Russia may be annihilated by the inexorable logic of events, not the least important of which we should consider the withdrawal of the British fleet from Bessika Bay as a sign of an actual understanding between Russia and England on the Eastern question.

No. 311.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 326.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July* 18, 1876.

M. DE GIERS told me yesterday that M. Ghika, the Roumanian Agent here, had placed in his hands a "Memoir" which, he said, had been likewise presented to the Governments of the Great Powers. The "Memoir" gave in detail a list of grievances which the Roumanian Government had against the Porte.

As your Lordship will probably have received a copy of this Memoir, it is not necessary for me to refer to it further than to indicate the point which struck M. de Giers as being of the most importance.

This point referred to the portion of Bessarabia which was ceded by Russia in the Treaty of Paris, and which included certain islands at the mouth of the Danube. The Roumanian Government now claim that portion of the ceded territory which was given to Turkey, on the grounds that, in virtue of Article XXI of the Treaty of Paris, the whole of the territory ceded, and not merely a portion of it, rightly appertained to Roumania.

The presentation of this Memoir at this moment, and the announcement in this morning's papers that the Roumanian Minister of War had submitted to the Chamber a Project of Law for the mobilization of the army, and the calling out of a portion of the reserves, makes it evident that the Roumanian Government are preparing to make common cause with Servia, Montenegro, and the insurgents.

In support of this expectation, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship the précis of an article from the "Golos," translated from the Russian by Mr. Scott, Second Secretary at this Embassy, which states "that the wider the sphere given to the protest of the Balkan Christians against the Turkish rule, the sooner will the diplomacy of Europe recognize the necessity of putting an end once for all to the state of things which evolved that protest."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 311.

Précis of Article in the "Golos" of July $\frac{6}{18}$, 1876.

POLITICAL REVIEW OF THE DAY.—While Lord Derby was publicly admitting that Turkey was on the eve of suicide or natural dissolution, and the news from Constantinople was reporting things scarcely to be credited showing the disorder raging in official circles of the Turkish capital, while, lastly, the Turkish Government, with cynical laconism, was declaring to its creditors that it would not be in a position to pay them a single copeck until "more favourable circumstances" should arise, the telegraph brings us the news that the Ministers of the half mythical Monarch, in concert with the Ulemas, are again busied with the discussion of the famous Turkish Constitution, and have already advanced so far as to have almost decided on its basis.

This intelligence, apparently from official sources, could not arrive more *à propos*.

On the day that Mr. Disraeli announced to the House of Commons that the Reception of Foreigners into Britain had evaporated the poor Cherkesses and Bashi-Bazouks, known for their gentle and peaceable character, the European public seriously engaged with the terrible events in the East, had no time to indulge in a hearty laugh. This lamentable blank has now been filled up, and, reassured by the results of the Beikonstadt interview, Europe can now find relaxation in the pleasant comedy of Turkish Ministers and Ulemas seriously resuming the discussion of Midhat Pasha's constitutional projects

at a moment like the present, when even Mr. Disraeli, with all his colossal "aplomb," dares not risk a syllable on the possibility of Turkish reforms, or the liberalism of Sultan Mourad.

The Statesmen of Constantinople can, however, find nothing better to do than to occupy themselves with such innocent devices for beguiling the time.

Europe positively ignores the Sublime Porte, and discusses the Eastern question entirely careless of what Mehmed Pasha, Safvet Pasha, or Midhat Pasha may think of the decisions she may take. No one asks their opinion, thoroughly convinced that the difficulty will be solved, one way or another, by a simple agreement of the Cabinets of Europe with the Slavs, and that at Constantinople they will have to submit to whatever may be decided in this way.

The exclusive interest devoted by the public mind of Europe at this moment to the war raging on the banks of the Danube, compels it to lose sight of this very important side of the Eastern question, at the root of which lies the present ignoring of the Ottoman Empire by the Cabinets of Europe. Meanwhile, the fact of its being ignored, confirmed, as this fact is, by Lord Derby's late allusion to Turkey, will in all likelihood, form the basis of the new order of things which will, in the Balkan Peninsula, follow on the termination of the Servo-Turkish struggle. But this fact must on no account be lost sight of, especially at this moment, when the events on the theatre of war are assuming a form which gives no promise of a speedy military victory by the Slavs.

The solution of the question may, if not to-day, perhaps to-morrow, pass from the field of battle to the domain of diplomacy, and then the present relations of the European Cabinets to the Turkish Government will show themselves in a most favourable form for the Slavs.

In view of such a possibility, every intelligence is of importance which indicates a probability of an accession of force to the antagonists of the Turks. The wider the sphere given to the protest of the Balkan Christians against the Turkish rule, the sooner will the diplomacy of Europe recognize the absolute necessity of putting an end once for all to the state of things which evoked such a protest.

In this sense, we consider of sufficient importance the news from Bucharest of a proposal having been submitted to the Chamber by the Minister of War to mobilize the army and to call out a part of the reserves.

The unimpassioned neutrality of Roumania seemed to us, from the very first, extraordinary, and we refused to believe that, at the bottom of this line of action, lay a firm resolve of the Roumanian Government to hold themselves entirely aloof.

Events are apparently beginning to justify our surmises. The present is the third occasion since the outbreak of hostilities that we have heard of measures being adopted at Bucharest in connection with the events now passing on the Danube.

First Roumania placed a corps of observation on her frontiers, then she took the initiative in a demand for the neutralization of the Danube, and now she is preparing to mobilize her army and to call out a part of her reserves. All this, it seems to us, is not being done without a purpose, and we shall not be surprised if, within a short time, on one pretext or another, the Roumanian troops appear on the scene of hostilities.

Prince Charles cannot fail to understand that he can never have another more favourable opportunity for attaining the complete independence of Roumania.

No. 312.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 329.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July* 19, 1876.

I HAD an interview with Prince Gortchakow this morning at Peterhof, when his Highness received me with his usual courtesy and cordiality.

Our conversation commenced with referring to the events which had taken place in the East since his departure.

He referred to the Berlin Memorandum, expressing the surprise with which he had received the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to adhere to it. He said that it was of so moderate a character that the only reproach which could be made to it was that it did not go far enough.

It had been his wish and object to reserve for England what he termed a "leading part" in a, possibly, necessary, the maritime action, as the British Fleet was more numerous and more powerful than all the other fleets combined. He should even

have proposed that the command in chief should have been given to the oldest Admiral, in order to ensure its being given to an English Admiral.

In making these remarks I could perceive that his Highness had not yet recovered from his mortification at the refusal of England to adhere to the Berlin Memorandum, for he dwelt on this topic which is now distanced by subsequent events, and is still impressed with the belief of its having prejudicially influenced the pacific efforts of Europe.

His Highness further observed that, in consequence of this refusal of England and of the reply made by your Lordship in the House of Lords to a question as to the Treaty obligations of England towards Turkey in the event of internal disorders, it had been no longer possible to restrain Servia and Montenegro from action, and thence had arisen the present deplorable state of affairs.

I observed that Her Majesty's Government, against their own wishes and inclinations, had found themselves obliged to decline adhering to the Berlin Memorandum because it was apparent to them that its resolutions were impracticable and without any hope of leading to a satisfactory solution.

As regards your Lordship's reply in the House of Lords, I observed that a direct question had been put to which no other reply could have been given than that given by your Lordship.

I then said to his Highness that these questions referred to the past, and that it appeared to me of more moment to think of the present and to provide, if possible, for the future.

Events had marched so rapidly that diplomacy had been distanced. I thought that the present valuable time should not be lost by Europe in discussing the past, but in endeavouring to agree upon a basis on which mediatory action could be taken when a favourable moment offered.

I observed that I could not see any marked divergence of opinion between our respective Governments. Both desired the maintenance of the general peace. Both desired the localisation of the war, and had agreed upon the principle of non-intervention. Both were equally desirous of preventing the disruption of the Ottoman Empire, and all the Powers seemed to agree that the Christian provinces in revolt should hereafter enjoy an administrative autonomy "vassale et tributaire."

Prince Gortchakow expressed his concurrence, and stated that he was glad to learn from Count Schouvaloff that the principle of the *status quo ante bellum* appeared to meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government. He observed that the moment had not yet arrived for mediation between the conflicting parties, nor could any certain basis be laid down until the results of the contest were defined. It was impossible, he observed, that the existing state of Servia which rested on international Treaties should be altered. On the other hand, if the Servians should be successful, they could not be deprived of the fruits of their victory. His Highness seemed, therefore, to think that, at present, no defined basis could be agreed upon.

In referring to the position of Austria, his Highness stated in very decided terms that a perfect agreement existed between the two Imperial Governments. His Highness said: "Nous sommes parfaitement convenus pour toutes les éventualités, mais ne me demandez pas davantage."

His Highness in the course of our conversation repeated the anxious desire of the Emperor for peace, and for a cordial agreement with England on Eastern affairs.

Whenever he expressed himself with warmth it was evident it arose from a feeling that the loyal and pacific policy of the Emperor which had borne the test of twenty-one years was distrusted in England; and he expressed his disappointment that in England Russia should be thought to be pacific in London, but warlike at Belgrade and Ragusa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 313.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 330. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 19, 1876.*

WHEN I was with Prince Gortchakow this morning, I found him rather disconcerted by a telegram which he had just received from Count Schouvaloff, giving the substance of

an answer made by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons last evening to a question concerning the atrocities in Bulgaria.

Count Schouvaloff had reported Mr. Disraeli as stating that the atrocities alluded to had been greatly exaggerated, and that they had originated with the Christian insurgents.

I stated to his Highness that it was impossible to place any credence in the reports of the newspapers on the events passing in the Turkish provinces; and his Highness' experience must have proved to him how difficult it was to obtain correct information in countries where truth was a phenomenon.

It was therefore impossible for the Prime Minister to give his confirmation to newspaper articles which had not been officially reported and authenticated.

His Highness was further disturbed by information he had received (probably from General Ignatiew) stating that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had denied the existence of any agreement between Her Majesty's Government and Russia; and his Highness remarked on the discordance of the language used by Sir H. Elliot with that of Her Majesty's Government in London.

I replied to his Highness that I could not believe in the truth of the information which had reached him, for I observed that Sir H. Elliot was far too prudent, too loyal, and too truthful to hold any language which was not in accordance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 314.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 331.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 19, 1876.*

I SPOKE to Prince Gortchakow this morning on the subject of the Roumanian Memoir, referred to in my despatch No. 326 of yesterday's date, and I inquired what answer he intended to give.

His Highness replied that he should give no answer at all. It was not the moment, he observed, to raise questions of the nature contained in the Memoir, and, consequently no attention would be paid to them.

On my referring to the reclamation by Roumania of the delta of the Danube, Prince Gortchakow said that during the negotiations at Paris Kopreili Pasha asked him to obtain the cession to Turkey of the Sulina mouth of the Danube, with the consent of the other Powers, which was finally agreed to, although it had been stipulated that the ceded territory should be given to Moldavia.

The Chancellor, in replying to my inquiry as to the attitude of Roumania, said that he did not anticipate any action on the part of Roumania in common with Servia and the insurgents, and that he did not think that Roumania would interfere, unless the Servians should obtain any great successes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 315.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 332.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 19, 1876.*

M. DE GIERS confirmed to me yesterday the private information I had received that General Ignatiew was shortly expected here on leave of absence. His Excellency stated that he had been anxious for some time to return here on private business, but had not been able to do so.

As at this moment there was nothing for him to do at Constantinople, the Sultan being indisposed, and the Turkish Ministers absorbed with the internal affairs of the country, it had been judged a propitious moment to grant General Ignatiew a short leave of absence, which M. de Giers stated would not exceed three weeks, at the expiration of which he would return to his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 316.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 333. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, July 19, 1876.*

WITH reference to my previous despatch of this date, Prince Gortchakow told me to-day in conversation that General Ignatiew had been called home on leave, the state of affairs at Constantinople not rendering his presence there for the moment necessary. The Sultan was not visible, and the Turkish Ministers were wholly occupied with the discussion of internal questions.

Moreover, added his Highness, in the present excited state of the population an insult might be offered to General Ignatiew which would lead to a rupture and a *casus belli*, which the Prince was most anxious to avoid.

He gave me to understand, however, that there was no question of recalling General Ignatiew from the post of Ambassador.

I am afraid that the presence and counsels of General Ignatiew will not have a beneficial effect here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 317.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1876, 4 P.M.*

YOU can appoint either Mr. Cumberbatch or Mr. Simmons, as you prefer, to be Student Dragoman, and send the one you nominate at once to Belgrade.

No. 318.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Blunt.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 24, 1876.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 44 of the 30th ultimo, relating to apprehended disturbances at Xanthie, and to the report communicated to you by the Greek Consul-General that Bashi-Bazouks had been selling Christian boys and girls in the district of Drama, I have to approve the measures taken by you with the view of ensuring the prompt repression of such proceedings, and the severe punishment of the parties implicated in them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 319.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 23. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, July 10, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy, with translation, of a protest sent to the Porte on the part of the Catholic community of the Herzegovina against any annexation of their country to Servia or Montenegro; and stating that in case of Turkish rule ceasing in these Provinces, they desire to be united to Austria.

This was sent to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, to whom it was communicated by the Catholic Bishop of Mostar, with a request to bring it to the notice of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Freeman remarks: "I am inclined to think that this is a mere Austrian intrigue and not a spontaneous expression of feeling of the Catholic community of this Province. The clergy, who are all of the Franciscan order of monks, are entitled, I believe, by special Treaty, to the protection of Austria in all ecclesiastical matters, and their

sympathies naturally incline towards that Power; but I am not convinced that the Catholic population in general is imbued with similar proclivities."

It is very possible that Austrian agents may have suggested the allusion to Austria contained in the protest, but there can be no doubt of the fact that the whole Catholic population, in these countries, would prefer the alternative of annexation to Austria rather than to Servia or Montenegro. What they most desire, however, is to remain as they are, but with an improved Turkish Administration. I think that Mr. Freeman, in making the remark quoted, must have been thinking of the well-known fact that Catholics in general do not desire Austrian rule in preference to Turkish, and forgot that their desire was only expressed as an alternative against Servian Government.

The hatred between Catholics and Orthodox is as intense as that between the latter and the Turks; and the former declare that they would be driven from the country if it fell to Servia. The Catholics of Bosnia were on the point of making a similar protest against annexation to Servia, without, perhaps, alluding to Austria, but war having commenced they thought it superfluous, and showed their attachment to the Turkish Government by offering to take up arms against the Serbs. This has been accepted by the Commander-in-chief, by whom a certain number are now being equipped.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 319.

Protest.

(Translation.)
To the High Ottoman Government in Constantinople,

TO our great surprise we have heard that Servia has presented to the Sublime Porte a formal demand for the annexation of Bosnia. The Catholic population of the Bishopric of the Herzegovina, in view of this demand, is obliged to declare to the Sublime Ottoman Porte, as well as to the high Governments of the Guaranteeing Powers, that it is their firm determination to refuse consent to any such annexation, which is entirely contrary to their moral and material interests.

In case, therefore, the actual Government should wish or should be obliged to cease in Bosnia, the Catholics formally protest against the annexation of their country to Servia or to Montenegro, and declare that in such a case they desire to be united to the people of the glorious Austrian Empire, with whom they are closely connected by their past history and by their numerous moral and material interests.

No. 320.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 24. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, July 10, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch received from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, regarding the communication of the declaration of hostilites between Turkey and Servia by the Porte to the authorities at Mostar, and inclosing copy, with translation, of the Proclamation ordered by the Grand Vizier similar to that which was published here. Also stating that he had endeavoured to dissuade the Governor-General from his intention of disarming the Christians, and informing me that the Prince Nicholas, at the head of a force of Montenegrins, had entered the Herzegovina at Baniani.

The general call to arms of the population of Bosnia and the Herzegovina was, I think, a measure of self-preservation which the state of the case and the nature of the enemy rendered unavoidable, however otherwise objectionable. I think Mr. Freeman did right to endeavour to persuade Ali Pasha not to order the disarming of the Christians, which would create a panic and certainly do more harm than good in every way.

He does not say, however, whether his endeavours were successful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 320.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Mostar, July 7, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, on Saturday last the 1st instant, intelligence was communicated to the authorities here of the breaking out of hostilities between Turkey and Servia, and the following day information was received that Montenegro had also made a declaration of war. On Monday, the 3rd, the Governor-General Ali Pasha, according to instructions from the Grand Vizier, issued a Proclamation, copy and translation of which I inclose herewith, calling on all the Mussulmans of this Province to arm themselves in defence of their country.

I am inclined to think that this was an unwise measure, as it has only served to increase the animosity between Turks and Christians. The Mussulmans throughout the country were already possessed of arms, although they did not always carry them on their persons. Since the Proclamation, however, none appear in the streets of this town otherwise than armed to the teeth. It is to be hoped that this may not give rise to any fanatical outburst, but there is no doubt it will be the cause of many isolated cases of murder and violence. The authorities, evidently fearful lest some trifling incident may have unpleasant consequences, have closed every tavern and wine-shop in the town, and even forbidden the sale of wine and spirituous liquors. The idea was also entertained of seizing all arms in the possession of the Christians of Mostar, but I have endeavoured to dissuade his Excellency the Governor-General from such an ill-advised act. The few arms owned by the Christians are only worn by them when on a journey, and to cause a perquisition to be made in all their houses for the seizure of these few weapons of defence would be to them a needless source of irritation, not only as showing an utter want of confidence in their loyalty, but also because it would be the occasion of much tyrannical abuse of power by the petty officers intrusted with the duty.

The Montenegrins, who have been for some time past assembling in considerable force at Grahovo, have now, under the command of the Prince in person, crossed the frontiers into the district of Baniani. The military authorities seem to fear an attack on Nevissin, and in the absence of a sufficient regular force a body of Bashi-Bazouks were dispatched two days ago in that direction from Mostar. I do not myself anticipate any serious attack on the Herzegovina, but rather lean to the opinion held by some people that this force of Montenegrins will march towards Taslidjeh and the Sandjak of Yeni-Bazar, but the military force in this Province having been considerably weakened by the dispatch of twelve battalions to Bosnia, a diversion may possibly be attempted, as apprehended, in the direction of Nevessine and even Mostar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 320.

The Grand Vizier to the Vilayet of the Herzegovina.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)

GREETINGS to all from His Majesty the Sultan. The enemies of the Government have raised their heads everywhere and on all sides and have risen against the Turkish Government, as is already known to all. The Government, relying on God's mercy, is taking every necessary measure.

The heroes of Bosnia are they who trust in their religion, and their history has shown to the world the valour of their ancestors, how they courageously fell on their enemies and crushed and annihilated them.

After giving to all our greeting announce to them, that His Majesty the Sultan has commanded that all Mussulmans of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, from the age of seven to seventy, be called upon to arm themselves, and relying on the assistance of God, to unite with the Imperial troops for the protection of their country, and to do everything in their power to annihilate the enemy.

And since merciful and clement proceedings towards the submissive, quiet, and poor inhabitants will advance the cause and enhance the glory, it is recommended that this be carefully observed in every direction.

June 20, 1876.

Every reasonable person will agree that the project, according to the above-mentioned copy of the telegram from the Grand Vizier, as regards the protection of the country, is a good and desirable one. There is no doubt that the sons and grandsons of this country will show the same courage as their ancestors at all times have shown. It is therefore proclaimed and recommended that everyone shall arm and watch, that he shall use his best endeavours and exercise vigilence on every side, that he shall associate himself with the Imperial troops against the enemy, to disperse and destroy those who attack and to protect the lives, property, and honour of loyal subjects, and that he shall not disturb the internal peace.

Vali of the Vilayet of the Herzegovina,
(Signed) ALI.

June 21, 1876.

No. 321.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 25. Political.)

My Lord,

Bosna-Serai, July 14, 1876.

DURING the past week all the official telegrams and indirect information from the frontier report the successes of the Turks over the Servians in every direction. On the other hand, all the reports telegraphed from Servia to Europe announce quite the contrary. My own impression is, that allowing for exaggeration regarding killed and wounded, the Turkish reports are on the whole true; and I arrive at this conclusion from the fact that all the authorities here appear calm, confident, and in good spirits, that not a single Bashi-bazouk has yet returned here, and that their letters to their families accord with the news officially published. If the Servians had been successful they would by this time have been advancing on Serajevo. Of this there is not the slightest suspicion here, and the town is perfectly tranquil. In the opposite case there would have been a panic. I do not attempt to give your Lordship all the details of the different encounters in which both parties claim the victory. The apparent result only seems to me to be of importance.

When a small State like Servia, without resources or support, declares war against an Empire, it may be supposed at that moment to be in its strongest possible condition, and, at the least, it may then be expected to obtain the first advantages. The larger State is naturally at the same moment at its weakest, but every succeeding day adds to its power while detracting from that of its presumptuous adversary. If, therefore, the Servians have failed in all their first efforts, I think that, unless some very unexpected complications arise, the result may be predicted, and that their complete discomfiture, at a not very distant period, may be expected. A battle, however, is now being, or soon will be, fought in the neighbourhood of Nisch. If the Turks are victorious I think that the war will be carried into Servia, and that there can then be no doubt as to the final result; but if the Turkish army is destroyed at that point the difficulties of the Turks will be greatly increased by the advance of the Servians into Bulgaria, and that the strife will be more prolonged.

The Local Government has just published a bulletin stating that there has been a battle in the Herzegovina between Gatzko and Nevissine, in which the Montenegrins have been completely beaten and dispersed. I have as yet, however, received no news from Mr. Freeman on this subject. Twenty fresh battalions are expected to arrive immediately, I am told, at Klek. This will make a total of some fifty battalions of regulars, which, I should think, will enable the Turks to hold their own in the Herzegovina against Montenegro, especially as she is being, or about to be, attacked from the Albanian Pashalic, and is likely to be more occupied in defensive than in offensive operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 322.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 265. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, July 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Lordship's notice a singular circumstance connected with the proposal to address a solemn warning to Servia, which was made on the eve of the commencement of the war.

On the 30th ultimo, I received the repetition of Lord Lyons' telegram to your Lordship of the previous day, which runs as follows:—

"I have spoken to the Due Decazes in the sense of your despatch No. 645 of yesterday, and have read to him the last paragraph. He said that it might not be too late to stop the Prince of Servia, and that he should at once make known by telegraph to the other Powers the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government, and invite them to join in a solemn warning to Servia."

On the following day, in conversation with Baron Brin, a Secretary of the French Legation, I asked him if the Marquis de Noailles had spoken to the Italian Government respecting sending advice to Servia, and he replied: "You mean the proposal of Lord Derby."

On the 3rd instant, I saw M. Melegari, and, as I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 257 of that date, he laid stress upon the willingness of the Italian Government to send the warning as it was suggested by Her Majesty's Government, notwithstanding that they considered that it would be a step in vain.

On the 10th instant, I received by messenger the confidential print upon Eastern affairs, from which I learnt that, so far from the step having been suggested by Her Majesty's Government, your Lordship instructed Lord Lyons to state to the Due Decazes in reply to his invitation, that Her Majesty's Government had no objection to repeat the advice (already given to Servia) if the other Powers were also ready to do so; and, further, on this communication being made Lord Lyons states in his despatch No. 478, Confidential, of the 29th instant, that the Due Decazes drew up a telegram to be sent off for communication to the other Governments and read it to him: "It stated that in consequence of a suggestion from him, Her Majesty's Government were ready to unite with the other five Powers in giving a fresh warning to Servia."

Under these circumstances, I feared that I might have misunderstood M. Melegari's remark, and I took an opportunity to say to M. Malvano, his Chef de Cabinet, "with regard to the solemn warning sent to Servia, did the proposal to send it come to you from the French or from us?" He replied immediately, "It came from the English Government, but it was transmitted to us by the Due Decazes through M. de Noailles;" and he added, "We were, indeed, rather surprised at the roundabout manner in which you sent it to us."

In order that there might be no mistake in the matter, I asked M. Melegari to-day the same question, and he also answered that "the proposal was suggested by Lord Derby and forwarded by the Due Decazes." He added that Her Majesty's Government had made the same proposal at Berlin, and that he did not know whether they had made it elsewhere or not.

On receiving these answers, I abstained from any remark as to the true origin of the suggestion, not wishing to raise so delicate a question as the veracity of the communication made to the Italian Government under instructions from the Due Decazes—instructions which must apparently have been altered after they had been shown to Lord Lyons, and which attribute to your Lordship the initiative in a step which was, in fact, first mooted by the Duke himself on the 23rd ultimo, in a conversation with Lord Lyons, reported in his Excellency's No. 448, Confidential, of the same date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 323.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 272.)
My Lord, *Rome, July 20, 1876.*

M. MELEGARI, Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed me to-day that at the request of the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, under instructions of the Ottoman Government, he had communicated with the Austrian Government on the subject of the closing of the port of Klek. His Excellency had, he said, purposely abstained from uttering any opinion upon the propriety of the measure, and had simply asked for information. The Austrian Government had stated in reply that they had an undoubted right to close the port; and although the Turkish Government denied the right, the Italian Government had no intention to discuss the question. His Excellency did not consider that it was a matter on which he was called upon to declare his opinion officially, though it was one which engaged his attentive consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 324.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 274.)
My Lord, *Rome, July 22, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Melegari, Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated to me on the day before yesterday that the Italian Government had received the Memorandum recently drawn up at Bucharest by the Government of Prince Charles, relating to certain concessions which they desire to obtain, and that an answer had been sent stating that the present moment was inopportune for the consideration of the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 325.

Mr. Cookson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 230. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Alexandria, July 18, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Khedive last week dispatched troops to Constantinople in three steamers, and that three more are now ready to start with more troops, making a contingent of about 6,000 men.

I have good authority for informing your Lordship that this act of the Viceroy's was opposed by M. de Lex, the Russian Agent and Consul-General here, who represented to His Highness that it was not necessary under the present circumstances for him to comply with the requisition sent from Constantinople. The Khedive replied that he considered himself, as an Ottoman Prince, to have entirely the same interests as his Suzerain in the struggle with the Bosnian and Servian insurgents. M. de Lex then asked whether this step on the part of His Highness was taken by the advice of England, to which His Highness replied that (as is the fact) he had never spoken to me on the subject, and that the same day that he received the telegram asking him to send the troops he replied, engaging to comply. The number already dispatched is but small, but the Egyptian Government is, I believe, prepared to send the full complement of 20,000, besides arms, if circumstances should render it imperatively necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. A. COOKSON.

No. 326.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 497. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 22, 1876.*

WITH reference to Mr. St. John's despatch to your Lordship, which I forwarded by Messenger Robbins on the 19th instant, inclosing a copy of an instruction of the Government of Bucharest to its Agents abroad, setting forth various claims for ameliorating the position of the Principality in its relation with the Suzerain and other Powers, and for a rectification of the frontier, I understand that the Austro-Hungarian Government

consider that the step taken by the Government at Bucharest in bringing forward this question at present is inopportune, but I am told by Baron Hofmann that they have expressed no opinion upon the points which have been submitted to their consideration by the Agent of the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 327.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 25, 1876.*

MR. MONSON telegraphs Ragusa, Monday, 4 P.M.:—

"Official telegrams from Mostar announce that Moukhtar Pasha yesterday defeated Montenegrins at Brelina, near Nevesinje, taking all enemy's positions after three hours' fight, and inflicting on him severe loss."

No. 328.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 25, 1876.*

GOVERNOR-GENERAL of Salonica has been condemned to one year's imprisonment.

French Ambassador is not satisfied with sentence unless accompanied by an engagement that he will be debarred from future employment.

No. 329.

Consul Kirby-Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 39.)

My Lord, *Scutari, July 14, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed this day by me to Sir Henry Elliot, on the subject of the recent encounters between the Turks and the Montenegrins near Podgoritza, and in the Krajina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY-GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 329.

Consul Kirby-Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, July 14, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that I yesterday afternoon telegraphed to your Excellency that the Turkish forces had driven back the Montenegrins on the whole length of the frontier between Medun and Podgoritza, and that a detachment of regulars and irregulars, that had been surrounded in the Krajina by the Montenegrins, had been relieved by the troops sent both from Scutari and Antivari.

The fighting on the 9th and 10th near Podgoritza has resulted in an undoubted success for the Turks, although on the first day they were driven to seek the protection of the guns of Podgoritza. They resumed the offensive on the following morning, with 4,000 men, and, after inflicting considerable losses on the Montenegrins, who have now retired well within their own territory, re-established their communications with Medun.

In the Krajina, a battalion of regulars and about 2,000 irregulars, composed of Mohammedan and Roman Catholic mountaineers and peasants, principally from the immediate neighbourhood, had been massed at the village of Murichi, on the borders of the lake, where they had been instructed to await further orders; but, hearing that the Montenegrins, to the number of about 2,000, had occupied the villages of Shestani and Kremitza, close

to the Montenegrin frontier, the Turkish Commanders could not resist attempting a surprise of the enemy, and with this object advanced towards Kremitza before dawn on the morning of the 10th. The Montenegrins were, however, fully prepared, and suddenly attacked the Turks in a mountain gorge. A panic appears to have seized the majority of the mountaineers, and to have communicated itself to some of the regular troops, and they sought safety in precipitate flight. Such of the troops and irregulars as held their ground were obliged to take up a position from which they could only hope to emerge through the arrival of a relieving force.

As soon as Achmed Hamdi Pasha became acquainted with this critical state of things, through the appearance of some of the fugitives in Scutari, he collected the few remaining troops, not amounting to more than 250, and despatched them to Murichi, whilst he directed the two battalions encamped near Antivari to march upon Kremitza from their side; and a battalion opportunely arriving here the next morning, the 12th, from Constantinople, it was also forwarded to Murichi.

Early yesterday some of the troops at that village were embarked in native boats, and on board one of the lake steamers, and conveyed towards the Montenegrin shores, as if with the intention of making a descent. The threatened movement had the desired effect of withdrawing the Montenegrins from the heights surrounding the invested Turks, and a junction was thus effected between the three Turkish corps without any opposition being encountered, and the whole force is now safely encamped at Murichi.

Among the fugitives from the Krajina were a Major and a Lieutenant of the regular troops, and the boyroktar, or standard-bearer, and leader of the volunteers of Antivari. The mountaineers excuse their flight on the ground that they were no match, with their flint-lock guns, for the Montenegrins, who were armed not only with breech-loading rifles, but also with revolvers. They have now all been provided with Enfield rifles, and they therefore profess themselves once more ready to meet the enemy.

The Pasha informs me that he has been promised by the Porte a reinforcement of 15,000 regular troops, and there is no doubt that with this addition to his present forces which, between regulars and irregulars, also amount to about 15,000 men, he would be able to repel any attempt on the part of Montenegro to invade North Albania. But I am of opinion that Prince Nicholas is far too well acquainted with the hostility with which the Slavs are viewed in this province to think for a moment, under present circumstances, of invading it, except on the outskirts of his frontiers, which are peopled by tribes of Montenegrin origin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY-GREEN.

No. 330.

Consul Kirby-Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 40.)

My Lord, *Scutari, July 15, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 19 and 20 of the 10th and 22nd May last, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir H. Elliot, reporting to his Excellency an attempt on the part of Montenegro to induce the Mirdites to raise the standard of revolt, and the compliance of the Porte with the wish of the Mirdites to have Prink Bib Doda as their Kaimakam.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY-GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 330.

Consul Kirby-Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, July 15, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatches of the 16th and 22nd May last, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that the Mirdites have informed Achmed Hamdy Pasha that a deputation of four Montenegrins had arrived in their district for the purpose of inducing them to raise the standard of revolt. They had rejected the overtures of the Montenegrins, but, as the Porte had sent them a Mohammedan Kaimakam instead of the son of the late Bib Doda, they had determined upon not complying with the summons

to furnish a contingent of volunteers in support of the Turkish arms, until their native Prince was named to rule over them.

The Pasha has been able to reply that the Porte had already decided to accede with the wishes of the Mirdites, and that Prak Bib Doda is on his way from Constantinople to Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY-GREEN.

No. 331.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 582. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 25, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch, No. 566 of the 21st instant, it may be worth while to mention to your Lordship that, during a long and rather desultory conversation which I had with the Duc Decazes this morning on the Eastern question, he said nothing whatever calculated to give me the idea either that he had made proposals to any Power for the settlement of the Servian question, or that he had any definite plan to propose. If, then, the proposals respecting which M. de Radowitz spoke to Lord Odo Russell exist, the Duc Decazes is not yet prepared to make them known to me.

Of what the Duke did say to me, there is not much that I need report to your Lordship.

He expressed his belief that the Montenegrins, as well as the Servians, had, in fact, been worsted by the Turks.

He asked me if I had given any credence to the rumours of the Servians having applied for an armistice, and having settled preliminaries of peace with the Turks, which had appeared a few days ago in some of the French newspapers.

He had, he said, perceived at the time, from looking over the private telegrams which had passed through the Paris Office, that the rumours were false. The telegrams had plainly been concocted for Bourse purposes, but the manœuvre was so elaborate—in fact, so overdone, that he had at once seen through it.

The Duke observed that the Porte was making grievous complaints of penury, but that, for his own part, he did not see that it ought to be in any straits about money. It received all its usual revenues, except from one or two provinces; and, as it did not pay the salaries of its civil officers, nor spend a single centime for interest on its debts and other engagements, it ought to be able to provide for the expenses of the war out of the savings thus effected.

He told me that he had heard, but was not quite sure of the fact, that the new Sultan had raised about 500,000 fr. (20,000*l.* sterling) on a deposit of jewels, which His Majesty had made at the Mont de Piété at Paris. To have received a loan of that amount from the Mont de Piété, His Majesty must, the Duke said, have deposited double the value in jewels.

The accounts which came from Constantinople of the Sultan's bodily and mental health gave, in the Duke's opinion, serious cause for uneasiness.

Finally, the Duke said that he supposed that the closing of the port of Klek was the price which Count Andrassy had paid for the declaration of Russia against a union between Servia and Bosnia.

Prince Gortchakow had probably, the Duke observed, thought it necessary to obtain at Reichstadt some satisfaction for the feeling in Russia in favour of the Slavs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 332.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 25, 1876.*

THE situation of affairs here has suddenly become extremely critical. Sultan's malady, now publicly known and considered hopeless, has placed the Grand Vizier and Midhat Pasha in a very difficult position, and has rendered the promulgation of Constitution impossible.

The fanatic party openly questions the authority of the Ministers, and urges the immediate deposition of the Sultan, in virtue of the very decree by which the late Monarch was set aside.

The accession of the Heir Apparent, who is much less liberally disposed than present Sultan, would, it is feared, inaugurate a harsh and fanatical policy, and destroy every prospect of a representative form of Government.

No. 333

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 26, 1876.*

I HAVE sent the following telegram *en clair* to Mr. St. John:—

"English gentleman who arrived here from Lower Danube states that he has received . . . . information that arms and men, said to be Russians, are constantly passing through Wallachia, with the knowledge of the authorities, and that after embarking on board steamers above the point on the river to which the Porte has agreed to send gun-boats, they land in Servia and join the army. If this be true, the Porte may be expected to take preventive measures."

No. 334.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 461.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 26, 1876.*

I INCLOSE a copy of a telegram from the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, which was placed in my hands by the Turkish Ambassador on the 21st instant, and which recites the several demands brought forward by the Governments of the United Principalities in the Memorandum communicated to the Porte by their Agent at Constantinople.

I told Musurus Pasha that I would reserve all expression of opinion upon those demands for the present. Meanwhile I should advise the Porte not to increase its present dangers by giving a positive refusal, but rather to negotiate on the subject, and to gain time.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 334.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 20 Juillet, 1876.*

L'AGENT des Principautés Unies à Constantinople vient d'adresser à la Sublime Porte, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, une note accompagnant un Mémoire envoyé de Bucarest. Ce Mémoire renferme les sept points suivants, que je transcris textuellement:—

1. Reconnaissance de l'individualité de l'Etat Roumain et de son nom historique.
2. Admission du Représentant de la Roumanie dans le Corps Diplomatique.
3. Régularisation de la position des sujets Roumains établis en Turquie, et reconnaissance de la juridiction des Agences de Roumanie sur leurs ressortissants.
4. Inviolabilité du territoire Roumain et délimitation des Iles du Danube.
5. Conclusion avec la Turquie de Conventions de Commerce, d'Extradition des Malfaiteurs, Postales, et Télégraphiques.
6. Reconnaissance du passeport Roumain, et abstention du Consul Turc de toute immixtion dans les affaires concernant les Roumains à l'étranger.
7. Fixation de la frontière entre la Roumanie et la Turquie aux embouchures du Danube en prenant pour base le thalweg.

La Sublime Porte n'a pas encore examiné ces diverses demandes. Aussitôt que nous aurons pris une décision à cet égard, je m'empresserai de vous la faire connaître.

No. 335.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 26, 1876, 3·45 P.M.

WITH regard to your telegram of 23rd instant Her Majesty's Government approve your having sent Mr. Baring to Bulgaria.

No. 336.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 466.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 26, 1876.

WITH reference to your telegrams of the 19th and 23rd instant, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your having sent Mr. Baring to Adrianople to inquire into the alleged atrocities in Bulgaria.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 337.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 26, 1876, 4 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 22nd, it would be advisable that before the Porte invites the Powers to consider arrangements some definite scheme should be determined upon which the Porte would wish to have accepted and which the Powers would be likely to acquiesce in.

No. 338.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 467.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 26, 1876.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 22nd instant, stating that you have informed the Porte of your opinion that it may be hardly possible to settle the questions relating to the insurgent provinces, and to Servia and to Montenegro, without an understanding with the Great Powers, and representing that, in the event of a decided success being obtained during the present war, it would be more for the dignity and interest of Turkey of her own initiative to invite the Powers to consider the arrangements that should be made than to wait until the proposals should be submitted by them to her acceptance, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government think that it would be advisable, before Turkey invites the Powers to consider those arrangements, that some definite scheme should be determined upon which the Powers would be likely to acquiesce in, and which the Porte would wish to have accepted.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 339.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 338.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 26, 1876.

COUNT BEUST stated to me to-day that Count Andrassy had informed him that his attention had been directed to the passage relating to Austria-Hungary which occurs in the report published in the newspapers of the speech which I recently addressed to a Deputation introduced to me by Mr. Bright.

Count Andrassy had no objection to raise to the description which I had given of the pacific tendencies of Austro-Hungarian policy, and he agreed with me in assigning to the Monarchy a place among the European States who desired peace; but he differed from me as to the motives to which this peaceful policy ought to be ascribed. I had referred, he said, to the political organization of the country, and to the large number of different nationalities inhabiting it, in order that I might draw the inference that Austria-Hungary was bound to maintain peace by regard for her own safety, which was no less menaced than that of Turkey by any considerable movement in the south-east of Europe.

Count Andrassy was himself of opinion that the interests of Austria would be served by the maintenance of peace; and it was because he was of that opinion that he could not be indifferent to any misapprehension on my part as to the true nature of those interests.

It was true that the country was peopled by nationalities differing much from each other, but a most powerful feeling in favour of political union bound them together internally, and enabled them to show externally a united front. The best argument against my views was to be found in the fact that the movements in Turkey had scarcely affected the internal condition of the Monarchy. In spite of the dimensions to which the Turkish movement had grown; in spite of the fact that the insurgent tide had overflowed the frontiers, it had not been found necessary either in Dalmatia, or on the military frontier, or in Southern Hungary, to take extraordinary measures to guarantee the security which I supposed to be menaced. The Government could not, in fact, adopt such measures on a more extended scale without passing the limits imposed upon it by the constitutional budgets; it had confined itself to placing on the frontiers one division on its peace footing, in order to guarantee neutrality and secure Imperial interests; and by so doing it had reduced to a minimum the measures which it was bound to take in accordance with its political position relative to this question. I might, he said, feel sure that even if the movement should be more widely developed, no internal difficulties would follow for Austria. It was true that dualism did not supply a basis on which an aggressive policy could be founded, but it was perfectly suited to the true wants of the Empire, and afforded quite sufficient means for defending its real interests. If the Eastern question were now to be fairly opened there would be seen a unanimity of wishes and feelings in all parts of the Monarchy, of which possibly indication might not be found in the newspapers, but which would considerably astonish those who had formed an opinion only from reading those newspapers.

It was not by the Austrian, any more than by the English, Press that public opinion could be gauged; but even in England opinion was divided, there being pro-Turkish as well as anti-Mussulman demonstrations, and the language of the Press imperfectly indicates the genuine sympathies of the country. Count Andrassy was convinced that, as I did not attach too much value to these different symptoms in my own country, I should not allow my judgment of the state of affairs in Austria-Hungary to be influenced by certain descriptions which the newspapers had circulated.

Count Andrassy had begged Count Beust to impart to me his views and to assure me that they were well founded. He was most anxious that the desire of his Government for peace, which I had justly recognized, should not lose its value in my eyes from my attributing it to wrong motives.

I told Count Beust, in reply, that it appeared to me that Count Andrassy had misunderstood the expressions used by me on the occasion referred to, supposing them to have been accurately reported.

I had, undoubtedly dwelt on the internal condition of the Austro-Hungarian Empire as a reason for expecting that the Government of that Empire would maintain a pacific policy as most consistent with its interests. But I had not alluded to it with the view of expressing the opinion—which, in fact, I did not hold—that the dual system would be a cause of disaffection and weakness in the face of an enemy. My words referred to the danger which would be created for the Cabinet of Vienna by the formation of a powerful Slavonic State on the Austrian frontier, exercising, as such a State could not fail to do, a strong influence over the Slav population both in Austria and Hungary; while if, on the other hand, the result of war should be the annexation of Slav territory, the difficulty of keeping together so many various races under one Empire would be materially increased. I thought also that the Austrian Government had more to lose, and less to gain, than any other, by a war which must be waged in the name and for the sake of the principle of nationality. There was in these reflections nothing, I conceived, which could be construed as unfriendly or uncomplimentary to the Government of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and I did not doubt but that Count Andrassy would see that they had not been made without reason. It was not enough, in addressing an English audience, to give assurances of the peaceable intentions of a foreign Power;

those who heard me would naturally ask on what foundation the assurances rested, and would claim to exercise their own judgment as to the probability of their being accurate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 340.

Count Andrassy to Count Beust.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, July 26, 1876.)

DANS le discours concernant les affaires d'Orient qu'a adressé Lord Derby, il y a quelques jours, à une députation introduite auprès de lui par M. Bright, le passage concernant la situation politique actuelle de l'Autriche-Hongrie a dû fixer en première ligne notre attention. Le tableau qu'a bien voulu tracer dans cette circonstance Lord Derby des tendances pacifiques de notre politique ne saurait en aucune façon soulever des objections. Je suis en conséquence d'accord avec le Ministre Anglais lorsqu'il croit pouvoir assigner à notre monarchie sa place dans les rangs des Etats Européens qui doivent désirer la paix. Cependant, il se trompe sur les motifs qui décident notre attitude. Car Lord Derby se fonde sur notre organisation politique et sur le grand nombre de différentes nationalités qui habitent notre monarchie pour en tirer la conséquence que l'Autriche-Hongrie est tenue à la conservation de la paix non moins dans l'intérêt de sa propre sûreté menacée tout autant par un mouvement plus considérable au sud-est que celle de la Turquie.

Etant moi-même d'avis que le maintien de la paix répond aux intérêts de l'Autriche, cela ne me serait point indifférent que Lord Derby restât dans l'erreur sur la vraie nature de ces mêmes intérêts.

Il est vrai que notre monarchie est peuplée par des nationalités bien différents, mais un sentiment très fort d'union politique les rattache à l'intérieur et les unit vis-à-vis de l'extérieur.

Le meilleur argument contre les appréciations de Lord Derby se trouve dans le fait que les mouvements en Turquie n'ont eu guère une influence sur l'état de choses dans notre monarchie. Malgré les dimensions prises par le mouvement en Turquie, malgré le flot d'insurgés débordé au-delà de nos frontières, il n'a pas été nécessaire ni en Dalmatie ni aux confins militaires, ni dans la Hongrie au Sud, de prendre des mesures extraordinaires pour garantir notre sûreté que Lord Derby suppose menacée. Le Gouvernement ne pourrait pas même prendre ces mesures dans de plus larges proportions sans sortir des limites que les budgets constitutionnels lui imposent. Il s'est contenté d'y placer une division sur le pied de paix, pour garantir notre neutralité et nos intérêts, c'est-à-dire, le minimum des dispositions à prendre du point de vue de notre position politique vis-à-vis de cette question. Lord Derby peut être sûr que si même le mouvement allait se propager encore plus, il ne saurait nous créer des difficultés dans ce sens-là. Il est vrai que le dualisme n'offre pas la base d'une politique d'agression, mais il répond parfaitement aux véritables besoins de l'Empire, et il donne les moyens d'en défendre les intérêts d'une manière tout à fait suffisant.

Si la question d'Orient allait être tranchée maintenant, on verrait une unanimité des vœux et des sentiments dans toutes les parties de la monarchie, dont on ne trouve, peut-être, pas les indices dans nos journaux, mais qui étonnera fort ceux qui n'auront formé leur opinion que d'après la lecture de ces derniers.

Dans nos journaux encore moins que dans les journaux Anglais, on ne saurait trouver la mesure de ce qui constitue la vraie opinion publique. Mais même en Angleterre les opinions sont partagées, on y voit des démonstrations en faveur des Turcs aussi bien que des démonstrations anti-Musulmanes, et le langage de la presse ne permet qu'un jugement conditionnel sur les vraies sympathies du pays.

Je suis convaincu que Lord Derby, qui certainement n'attache pas une grande valeur à ces différents symptômes dans son propre pays, ne voudra pas se faire influencer dans son opinion sur l'état des choses en Autriche-Hongrie par certaines descriptions qui ont cours dans nos journaux.

Je prie votre Excellence de s'énoncer dans ce sens auprès de M. le Secrétaire d'Etat, et de lui donner un manière d'envisager les choses comme reposant sur des faits. Je tiens à ce que notre amour de la paix, justement reconnu par lui, ne perde pas de valeur à ses yeux par les motifs qu'il a tort de lui prêter.

No. 341.

Communication made by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, July 26, 1876.

RECU dépêche d'Athènes annonçant que Gouvernement Turc décida établir Colonies Circassiennes en Epire et Thessalie. Dites de ma part au Prince de Galles, Mr. Disraeli, et Lord Derby qu'une telle mesure c'est la ruine de ces provinces, destruction de leur sécurité, retour au brigandage sur la frontière Grecque, et qu'elle aurait des conséquences très graves, en poussant les populations Grecques au désespoir et soulèvement pour défendre leur nationalité menacée, Gouvernement Anglais peut empêcher exécution de cette mesure, qui est dénégation des réformes et améliorations promises, et ne fera qu'augmenter de beaucoup les difficultés actuelles.

No. 342.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 92. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, July 18, 1876.*

THE Turkish Consul-General told me yesterday that he found that twenty unwounded Montenegrins, who had entered Austrian territory near Klek on the 13th instant, had been sent by the Austrian authorities to Cettigné, and that the wounded would be sent there to-day. He had telegraphed this to the Turkish Embassy at Vienna, and begged me to do the same to Sir Andrew Buchanan.

The fifteen Turks taken by the Montenegrins at Klek have been consigned to the Turkish Consul-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 343.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 93. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, July 19, 1876.*

THERE has been, by consent of all the telegraphic reports received here yesterday, sharp fighting near Podgoritza, on the Albanian frontier. The Montenegrins claim success, and say that they have completely destroyed two blockhouses.

Moukhtar Pasha is preparing to give battle to the army under Prince Nikita at Blagaj, a village a few miles to the south-east of Mostar, on the road between that town and Nevesinje. I doubt his being able to collect more than 10,000 men to oppose the Prince's force, which will not be far from 15,000.

The Slavophils here are anything but pleased with the manner in which the campaign has been conducted by His Highness. M. Yonine said to me to-day that the Prince was too timid and too undecided to command an army; and that with a little more energy Mostar might have been taken some days ago without resistance. M. Yonine now thinks it not unlikely that the Montenegrin attack will fail.

The closing of the port of Klek has been hailed by the Slavs with intense delight as a diplomatic triumph of Prince Gortchakow, and an indication of the disposition of Austria to tie the hands of Turkey, it being well understood that no formal orders will stop the importation of contraband of war into Montenegro, by way of the Bocche di Cattaro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 344.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 94. Political. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, July 19, 1876.*

WITH reference to my preceding dispatch No. 93 of this date, respecting the operations of the Montenegrin troops, I think it as well to state (although, doubtless, your

Lordship will have already divined that such is the case) that General Ignatiew takes care to keep Prince Nikita informed, through M. Yonine, of the progress of the campaign on the Servian side. I understand that his Excellency telegraphed yesterday that hitherto the balance of results, with the exception of General Zach's failure, was equally adjusted.

M. Yonine declares that there are no Russian officers with the Montenegrin army, and that Stanko Radunics, as Chief of the Staff, directs their operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 345.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 498.) *Vienna, July 24, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 480 of the 17th instant, I inclose herewith an extract from the "Correspondance Autrichienne," reporting the substance of an article in the "Pester Lloyd," in which it is shown that the annexation of Bosnia to Austro-Hungary could not be effected without compromising the good understanding and the peaceful relations at present existing between the Empire and Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 345.

Extract from the "Correspondance Autrichienne."

LE "Lloyd de Pest" repousse décidément toute politique d'annexion pour l'Autriche-Hongrie en Orient, dans un assez long article auquel nous empruntons les passages suivants :—"Quelque haute opinion que l'on puisse avoir, comme nous, de la modération et de la retenue de la politique officielle Russe, personne ne sera cependant assez naïf pour s'imaginer que le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg verrait sans un sentiment d'égoïsme l'Autriche-Hongrie entreprendre des conquêtes sur le domaine traditionnel de la politique Russe et lui faire concurrence en quelque sorte. Si, malgré cela, la diplomatie Russe consentait cependant à un agrandissement de l'Autriche-Hongrie en Orient elle se laisserait guider, ce faisant, par l'espoir très-naturel et bien excusable à coup sûr, que l'œuvre de la décomposition a commencé et que ce sera à la Russie à en fixer le terme. Or, l'Autriche-Hongrie ne pourrait payer un semblable écot sans s'exposer aux plus graves dangers. Nous réitérons donc encore une fois ce que nous avons déjà dit antérieurement l'entente et la paix ne sont possibles entre l'Autriche-Hongrie et la Russie que sur les bases d'une politique conservatrice ; hors de là il n'y a que la guerre."

No. 346.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27, at night.)

Vienna, July 27, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

MONSON telegraphs from Ragusa, Thursday, noon :—

"Turkish official reports that Moukhtar Pasha is following Montenegrins who are retiring on Gnezko without fighting, and are abandoning provisions and cattle. Montenegrin retrograde movement is not contradicted from other sources."

No. 347.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27, at night.)

Vienna, July 27, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Monson's telegram of to-day, I have seen one from Baron Rodich dated to-day, which states that Montenegro suffered a great defeat on the 23rd instant, and that another battle is expected at Krotac (*sic*) on the road from Gnezko to Nichsich.

No. 348.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 28, 1876.*

MONSON telegraphs to-day : Some eye-witness, by no means hostile to Montenegrins, announce retreat of Prince Nikita and his army to Bangani ; they describe confusion and disorder as complete. Turks seem following slowly.

No. 349.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 28, 1876, 2·45 p.m.*

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires has informed me that the Turkish Government intend to establish Circassian Colonies in Epirus and Thessaly—a measure his Government consider would be the ruin of those provinces, bring back brigandage on the frontier, and be most menacing to the Greek population.

Inquire and report by telegraph respecting this matter.

No. 350.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 69.) *Foreign Office, July 28, 1876.*

Sir,

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires called upon me on the 26th instant, and informed me that he had received a despatch from Athens, stating that the Turkish Government had decided to establish Circassian Colonies in Thessaly and Epirus. The Hellenic Government considered that such a proceeding involved the ruin of those provinces, the destruction of their security, and the return of brigandage on the Greek frontier ; and that it would entail the gravest consequences, driving the Greek population to despair and revolt in order to defend their threatened nationality. His Government, therefore, called upon the Government of Her Majesty to prevent the execution of that measure, which the Greek Government regarded as a denial of the promised reforms, and as augmenting considerably present difficulties.

I told M. Gennadius that Her Majesty's Government had not received any information with regard to this matter ; and I have to instruct you to make inquiries on the subject and report to me the result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 351.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 28, 6·5 p.m.)

(Telegraphic.) *Mostar, July 28, 1876, 1·30 p.m.*

MOUKHTAR PASHA has reached Korito without encountering Montenegrins. He is advancing towards Banjani. (?)

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* A similar telegram was sent to Mr. Wyndham.

No. 352.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 465.)

Foreign Office, July 29, 1876.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens, respecting the alleged intention of the Turkish Government to establish Circassian colonies in Thessaly and Epirus, and I have to instruct you to make inquiries on this subject, and to report to me the result.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 353.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 172.)

Athens, July 16, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 155, Confidential, of the 5th instant, in which I mentioned to your Lordship that M. Zinopoulos, Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Interior, was suspected of having lately carried on intrigues with persons in Epirus, I have the honour to inclose herewith an extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of yesterday's date, in which it is stated that if M. Zinopoulos has been engaged in the proceedings of which he is accused, his conduct has been disapproved by the Government.

From reports which reach me there seems to be no doubt that M. Zinopoulos has been endeavouring to find out whether a movement in Epirus against the authority of the Porte was possible, if indeed he has not been engaged in trying to promote one.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 353.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of July 15, 1876.

M. ZINOPOULO, Secrétaire-Général au Ministère de l'Intérieur, que des journaux avaient accusé d'entretenir des intelligences avec les émissaires Slavs, a déposé une plainte en diffamation contre ces journaux. Le "Laos" a publié le texte entier de la fameuse dépêche attribué à M. Zinopoulo. A-t-il déposé aussi une plainte contre le rédacteur du "Laos?" C'est ce que nous ne savons pas. Ce qu'il nous importe de savoir, c'est que M. Zinopoulo, s'il a entretenu les intelligences qu'on lui attribue, a été désapprouvé par le Gouvernement.

No. 354.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 173. Confidential.)

Athens, July 17, 1876.

My Lord,

THE present state of political affairs causes considerable uneasiness in financial circles here, and the Greek funds have lately fallen very much, as well as the shares of the National Bank.

The reports from the seat of war, which have hitherto been, on the whole, favourable to the Turkish arms, have been scarcely credited at Athens, and I still think that had any decided success attended the arms of the Servians, the Greeks would not have continued to remain passive spectators of the struggle.

A certain amount of agitation is being carried on here at the present moment with a view of inducing the Greeks to take part in the contest against the Government of the Porte, and I hear on good authority that Russian Agents are at work, and that Russian money is being spent here with a view to promoting a movement which would oblige the Porte to send troops to its southern frontiers, and thus produce a diversion favourable to the Slavs.

A meeting was held on the 16th instant in Athens, which, however, I am told was not largely attended, at which the necessity of a national arming was advocated by M. Messinesi, translation of whose speech I have the honour to inclose herewith.

M. Fricoupi, in articles in the "Horn," still continues also to urge the necessity of preparations being made for any emergency, and I am informed that the Government are anxious to contract a considerable loan, probably for the purpose of purchasing munitions of war, and that M. Louis Drücker is shortly expected to arrive here from Holland with a view of discussing some arrangement with regard to the Loans of 1824-25.

It is generally thought here that M. Coumoundouros' Government will not meet with the support of the Chamber during the next Session, and that either M. Zaimis will become President of the Council, in which case he would, in all probability, have the votes of the party at present in power, or that M. Deligeorges will form a Government.

M. Deligeorges, I understand, has not disguised his disapproval of the policy of the Government of M. Coumoundouros, and is advocating, I am told, not only a reorganization of the military forces of the kingdom, but an immediate recourse to arms, as he thinks Greece will gain nothing if she holds aloof from the present contest.

This uncertainty as to the turn events may at any moment take in this country, taken in connection with the rumour that the Government is about to endeavour to contract a considerable loan, and with a prospect of a deficit of from 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 drachmas (146,428*l.* to 183,035*l.*) in the Budget of the present year, cannot inspire much confidence in the commercial and financial circles of the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

P.S.—I should have mentioned that M. Messenesi is a Councillor of the National Bank of Greece and Athens, and has, I believe, been on several occasions President of the Chamber of Deputies.

H. W.

Inclosure in No. 354.

Extract from the "Ephemeris" of July $\frac{5}{17}$, 1876.

(Translation.)

YESTERDAY a meeting of the "Adelphotes" took place in the Olympian Exhibition building, at which M. Messenesi, as President, made the following speech:—

"The clash of arms around us, the expenditure incurred alike by faithful and unfaithful Europe in the frontier State, the extraordinary armaments both on land and sea, in iron-clad fleets and in arms as perfect and deadly as possible, the monster preparations of all the great European Powers, as well as those of the second rate, and also of the smallest nations, not even excepting tributary States, have long ago indicated, and still do indicate, the question of military organization and of a general national calling to arms, as the first and highest care of every Greek, be he ruler or subject.

"You are, therefore, invited to join your votes to the voice and vote of your Administrative Council, and, firstly, to give your opinions thereupon. Verily the Ottoman Empire is in arms at the expense of good Christian Europe, and at the expense of everyone else.

"The land of Themistocles and Miaoulis will not be false to herself!

"Our debates are prudent, circumspect, and practical, devoid of offence, of insults, and of boasting. May God be with us!"

After this, M. Ophentoulis spoke with eloquence and patriotic ardour concerning the military organization of the nation, but it was decided that the debate on this urgent question should be put off till the next meeting.

No. 355.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 175. Very Confidential.)

Athens, July 18, 1876.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 155, Confidential, of the 5th instant, I had the honour to report to your Lordship some observations of the President of the Council in which he expressed

his fears that the Slav race would meet with support to the detriment of the prospects of the Hellenic nation.

At two interviews which I have lately had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, he has spoken to me "académiquement" on the hopes and aspirations of Greece and on her attitude with regard to the present contests in Turkey. M. Contostavlos' remarks were to the following effect: in Greece, he said, there was no strong feeling against Turkey, but that it was felt that sooner or later the Turkish race and Turkish power would disappear from Europe, and that it was the duty of Greece to prepare to fill in some measure the place which would be then vacated; that the great fear in Greece was that a large Slav kingdom might be formed having the support of, and being under the influence of, Russia, and that the Slav, being the natural enemy of the Greek, Greece could not look upon such a contingency with any other feeling than that of fear and aversion. M. Contostavlos went on to say that Greece had maintained a pacific policy of late out of deference to the wishes of Great Britain, and that it was to her that Greece looked for support in opposition to the interests of Russia, and that in Greece England would find a firm and true ally.

With regard to Turkey, he said that the Government had maintained a most friendly attitude in not only discouraging and preventing armed bands from operating upon her frontiers, but in counselling the Greeks within the dominions of the Sultan to remain quiet, and that, nevertheless, no appreciation of this friendly conduct had been manifested by the Government of the Porte. M. Contostavlos particularly adverted to the Bulgarian Church question, in which he said Greece had been left to fight her battles alone.

The dominant fear, my Lord, in this country appears to be the foundation at some future time of a Slav State under Russian influence, and the hope of the Government appears to be that the influence of that State may be counteracted by the aggrandizement of the Hellenic Kingdom with the support and countenance of Great Britain.

In conclusion, I beg to state that I understood M. Contostavlos to say that he had instructed, or was about to instruct, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London to bring his views to your Lordship's notice; they will, therefore, be probably laid before Her Majesty's Government in a more detailed and correct form than I can hope to do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 356.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 178. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 19, 1876.*

HAVING seen in the newspapers of the 12th instant that a Servian emissary was said to be at Athens, and that a former Officier d'Ordonnance of the King, M. Panos Colocotroni, had gone to Belgrade, I inquired on the 17th instant of the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether there was any truth in these reports.

With regard to the first, he said there was no foundation: that he had sent for information to the Prefet de Police, and that that official had reported that no Servian emissary was here; but with regard to the second report, he stated that it was true that M. Colocotroni was at Belgrade, but that he was not charged with any mission by the Government.

I heard this evening that an Aide-de-camp of the Prince of Montenegro, a M. Petrowitch, is expected here by the first steamer from Corfu. I will endeavour to inform your Lordship later with what object he is coming to Greece.

I may also mention that M. Zadowski, Russian Consul at Corfu, who is stated to have furnished funds to M. Barbieux, one of the persons reported to have been engaged with M. de Wedel in the transmission of arms to Montenegro, is also expected at Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 357.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 179. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 20, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, judging from conversations which I have lately had with the Austrian Minister here, he appears to think that the Greeks are right in purchasing arms and in preparing at some future date to take up the position which may be vacated by Turkey, and he considers M. Tricoupi wise in advocating that course, and in urging the payment of the debts contracted in 1824-1825; he has also said that he would much sooner see the Greeks at Constantinople than another Power.

I have argued, in reply, that the Greeks would be much wiser if, instead of purchasing arms and talking of raising a large army and a fleet, they were to adopt a different policy, so as to be able to offer to the Christians in Turkey in the event of their ceasing at some future time to be under Turkish dominion, a Government and country advanced in civilisation, with well regulated finances, and developed resources.

With regard to M. Tricoupi's articles in the "Hora," I have said that I thought he had chosen an inopportune moment for urging preparations, as with an excitable people like the Greeks it might tend to induce them to take up arms at once, and with regard to the loans of 1824-1825 I have remarked that M. Tricoupi must be well aware that the Guaranteeing Powers were not likely to admit of their being paid off before a settlement had been effected with regard to the loan of 1832.

In conclusion, I must state to your Lordship that the opinions of M. de Mitnch have only been expressed as his own personal opinions, and that I do not know whether they are shared by his Government; but I have thought it right to report them to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 358.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 180.)
My Lord, *Athens, July 20, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to state that a paragraph to the following effect has been published to-day in the "Hora":—"According to a letter from a Paris correspondent of the 'Cleo,' King George has said to the Due Decazes that the boundaries of Greece are badly defined, and that even with the addition of the Ionian Islands, and particularly of Corfu, the geographical position of Greece is unsatisfactory."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 359.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 738A.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 14, 1876.*

THE announcement by Count Zichy to the Porte that his Government had resolved to close the approaches to Klek against the Turks has produced a painful impression.

The Grand Vizier says that if Austria had openly asked for the cession of Bosnia, instead of endeavouring to add to the difficulties of Turkey by refusing it the access to one of its own ports, it would have surprised him less.

With the want of foresight which has throughout been so remarkable, no sort of precaution had been taken to provide beforehand for an emergency which, as the Porte had been repeatedly warned, the equivocal policy of Austria rendered not impossible.

Although the Porte considered that it had many grounds of complaint against Austria for her attitude during the insurrection, it attributed them rather to the Dalmatian authorities than to the Cabinet of Vienna, and did not believe it possible that an act of such a directly unfriendly nature would ever be adopted.

The position of the Turks in Bosnia and the Herzegovina must now become extremely critical.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 360.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 740.) *Therapia, July 14, 1876.*

My Lord,

SINCE the suppression of the Bulgarian insurrection few days passed without my urging upon the Porte the necessity of taking measures for putting an end to the excesses that were being committed, and previous to the receipt of your Lordship's telegrams on this subject I had directed Mr. Sandison to repeat my former representations in very forcible terms.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of his report upon executing them.

I wish it were possible for me to accept the denial of Midhat Pasha that outrages had been committed upon Bulgarian women, but the testimony of there having been many such instances is far too strong to be resisted.

There is more to be said for the distinction made by his Highness between the acts of the Bashi-Bazouks called out by the Government and those of the bands of Mahomedans who took arms to defend themselves from the attack of the insurgents, and who may have been guilty of atrocities in revenging those to which their countrymen had been exposed.

I have communicated to Safvet Pasha such particulars as seemed to be tolerably authenticated, with the names of individuals represented as having taken part in acts of oppression, earnestly urging that if the charges can be brought home to them the Porte should mark its sense of these proceeding in a manner to relieve it from the suspicion of indifference to which it is now exposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 360.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.) *Therapia, July 11, 1876.*

Sir,

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I mentioned to Midhat Pasha the reports which had reached Europe respecting the excesses and cruelties committed by the Bashi-Bazouks and the regular troops during the insurrection in Bulgaria. First, with regard to the regulars, his Highness desired me to assure your Excellency that there is no ground whatever for complaining of their conduct on the occasion, but that, from reports received at the Porte from the Imperial Commissioners specially deputed to inquire into these excesses, it was difficult to say as much of the Circassian irregulars, who, though guilty of various acts of plunder, had not indulged in them to the extent which is represented by the enemies of Turkey, who go on exaggerating matters, particularly as regards the Bulgarian women and girls supposed to have been sold into slavery.

This his Highness emphatically denies, but admits the fact of large quantities of cattle having been carried off by the Circassians, which, however, is now being recovered through the efforts of the Commissioners, and duly restored to the parties who claim them.

Now with regard to the general question of Bashi-Bazouks, his Highness thinks it but fair that some distinction should be made between those actually employed by the Government in certain instances, and such portions of the Mussulman peasantry, which, taking fright at the threatening attitude of the Bulgarians, naturally enough constituted themselves into armed bodies in self defence.

Thus they assumed the character of authorized Bashi-Bazouk corps, and indulged in excesses which the Government had neither the power nor opportunity of checking, when all its available forces were full engaged in putting down the alarming insurrection in Bulgaria.

Cruelties have been committed, said his Highness, but the Bulgarians first began perpetrating them, most unheard-of atrocities having been practised on innocent Turkish women, children, and men. I may here quote the testimony of the artist employed by the "Illustrated London News," who, in his travels through Bulgaria, came across the body of a Turk who had been impaled and roasted by the Bulgarians. Such acts could not but lead to reprisals, and to the consequent destruction of many thousand lives,

as well as of a large number of villages, amongst which must also be included a good many Mussulman ones.

As to the violation of women and girls, his Highness observed that, anybody sufficiently acquainted with the notions of the Turks in general on the subject of the respect due to woman-kind, will readily admit that rape is not one of the weak points of their character, particularly in Albania, where, talking from my own knowledge of the fact, no Albanian can possibly escape the general contempt of his fellow-countrymen if ever found guilty of such an act.

Having also spoken to Safvet Pasha on the subject of the excesses in question, I beg to inclose herewith in reply an extract of a letter received by his Excellency from a Roman Catholic gentleman connected with one of the leading Vienna papers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 360.

Letter from Philippopoli to Safvet Pasha.

(Extract.) *Philippopoli, le 27 Juin, 1876.*

LE dépit de ceux dont les plans subversifs furent déjoués par la prompte répression de la revolte éclatée dans ces parages se manifeste par un tissu de mensonges et de calomnies lancés contre ceux qui ont contribué le plus à apaiser le pays.

Le drogman du Consulat de Russie, until, comme son chef, d'Avratalon, jette la pierre toute d'abord à son Excellence Aekif Pacha, parcequ'il se serait refusé, au commencement, d'envoyer les secours qu'Aziz Pacha avait demandés, et parcequ'plus tard il avait fait envahir le caza par des Circassiens et des Bashi-Bozouks, qui n'ont fait, ajoute-t-on, que piller, incendier, et commettre les massacres les plus hideux. De son côté le Prince Tzeretelew, Second Secrétaire de l'Ambassade, gérant par intérim le Consulat de Russie à Andrinople, et qui j'ai rencontré ici au retour d'une excursion qu'il aurait du faire à Bellona, raconte qu'il a vu partout des horreurs incroyables; les habitants d'un village incendié auxquels les Bashi-Bozouks aidés par les réguliers et la gendarmerie auraient pris biens et bestiaux, qui se mourent de faim, et auxquels les autorités défendent de porter le moindre secours.

Chaque deux jours on débite ici que les Chrétiens vont être massacrés la nuit, et que la ville et les environs vont être saccagés. Au dire de ces messieurs, l'autorité et ses organes excitent le fanatisme religieux afin d'extirper tout ce qu'il y a de Bulgare, et Constantinople applaudirait et laisserait faire!

Pour qui ne connait pas la tactique de ces gens, il se croirait au milieu d'un pays de sauvages; ces messieurs ne se laissent pas d'inventer des choses incroyables et de les propager par des complaisants journaux. Quant à moi j'ai été charmé de me trouver face à face avec ces colporteurs de nouvelles fausses ou dénaturées, et tout en gardant le ton d'un observateur impartial, je ne me suis pas gêné de redresser les assertions erronées et de réfuter les fausses nouvelles de mes interlocuteurs.

Le fanatisme a éclaté d'abord chez les Bulgares, qui ont débuté par massacrer les Musulmans jusqu'aux femmes, vieillards, et enfants dans le but avoué de les exterminer tous.

Les Bulgares ont brûlé eux-mêmes leurs villages, et avant de parler des dévastations et des cruautés commises par les Bashi-Bozouks, il faut énumérer les actes barbares perpétrés par les insurgés sur ordre de leurs chefs et de leurs instigateurs. Dès que les Ministres actuels arrivèrent au pouvoir des troupes régulières parurent sur les lieux et le désordre fut arrêté.

L'état déplorable du pays est causé par l'insurrection; le Gouvernement actuel l'a reprimée et non pas provoquée; des bruits répandus et constamment renouvelés de massacres des Chrétiens ne sont colportés qu'en vue de semer et d'entretenir de nouveau la méfiance, la terreur, et l'esprit d'antagonisme d'où l'on espère faire naître de nouveaux désordres.

Le mutessarif fait son devoir et veille avec une activité remarquable pour son âge; Salim Effendi est infatigable et même les investigations auxquels j'ai assisté avec un calme et un esprit de justice qui méritent d'être signalés.

Je me borne pour aujourd'hui à ces peu de lignes qui retracent un tableaux véridique et consciencieux de l'état de choses. Je prie votre Excellence d'en exposer le contenu à leurs Altesses le Grand Vizier et le Président du Conseil d'Etat. Le tout repose sur une observation impartiale des faits, sur la pure vérité et sur l'indépendance absolue de ma

position. Je pense que le Gouvernement Impérial y puisera un matériél suffisant pour combattre avec plein succès les insinuations malveillantes que je prévois de certains côtés.

No. 361.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 744. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the copy of a private letter which I received this morning from Her Majesty's Consul at Nicolaieff, reporting the arrival there of several pieces of artillery, apparently destined for Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 361.

Consul Stevens to Sir H. Elliot.

My dear Sir Henry, *Nicolaieff, July* 11, 1876.

AS the "Palmyra" is steaming off, I have but time to mention that at 8 last night I received certain information which took me at once to the Russian Company's pier at Spask, where I found 12 6-inch very formidable looking new breech-loading brass mortars, and 6 (apparently 12-pounders) breech-loading new brass field-pieces, a lot of boxes with the breeches, 18 new (partly mounted) iron gun-carriages, together with a lot of other artillery gear. So far, I can only say that the Russian Company's watchman, on my asking him their destination, replied dryly, "for the Servians," while a sentry who was asleep on the boxes, and awoke on my approach, said, "I don't know; some say Odessa, some say Tiflis, some say Bender." The Imperial yachts "Livadia," Erekfik," and two steam gun-boats were at anchor off the pier,* where I remained until warned off. I am about driving to the spot so soon as I get off this packet.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) G. A. STEVENS.

P.S.—Aided by the light of a cigarette, I found all the brass pieces labelled or brauded "Ostrelnikoff," and in another part "Brinusk, 1876."

G. A. S.

No. 362.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 745.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 15, 1876.

THE Montenegrins established in this neighbourhood having received a summons to return to their country to take part in the war, have left in a body without any impediment being placed in their way by the Porte.

About 800 embarked in one of the steamers of the Austrian Lloyd Company, being accompanied on board by the Russian Consul-General, to whom they presented an album, containing the photographs of the principal Chiefs.

Most of the Bocchese, who are Austrian subjects, are also gone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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* Usual anchorage.

No. 363.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 746.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 15, 1876.

MONSIGNOR HASSOUN, who was exiled three years ago in consequence of the part he took in reference to the Bull "Reversurus," returned here about ten days ago by virtue of the general amnesty granted on the accession of the Sultan Murad.

There is every probability that the schism among the Armenian Catholics will now shortly come to an end, for while, on the one side, the Court of Rome has abandoned the extreme pretensions which neither the Porte nor a large proportion of the community would consent to recognize, the great body of the dissentients are anxious to be reconciled with their spiritual head.

The return of Monsignor Hassoun has occurred at a fortunate moment, for his influence over the Catholic populations of the northern provinces will be exercised with much effect in favour of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 364.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 748.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 15, 1876.

THE indignation felt here at the sudden closing of the port of Klek by the Austrian Government is very great and very general; and the Porte, without, however, entertaining any hope that it will have a practical effect, is about to protest formally against a proceeding which it considers to have been adopted by Austria out of deference to the wishes of Russia.

In debarring the access of the Turkish ships to a Turkish port, the Austrian Government are looked upon as infringing the absolute rights of the Sultan, and in doing it at a critical moment, without notice or warning, they are considered to have adopted the mode the most likely to increase the embarrassment that it must cause.

If, it is argued, the Austrian Government had been animated by the friendly feelings towards Turkey which they constantly profess, but had found themselves constrained to adopt such an extreme measure, the least that was to be expected was that they should give such notice of their intentions as would have enabled the Porte to take steps in reference to the stores and supplies already collected at Klek, the occupation of which by the insurgents or Montenegrins is now confirmed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 365.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 750. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 15, 1876.

I AM informed upon what I believe to be extremely good authority that, if the present complications are settled by a European Conference by concessions being made to Servia and Montenegro, the Greek Government is resolved to put forward a claim for an extension of its frontier.

General Ignatiew, in his conversations with the Greeks, encourages this pretension, and insinuates that if Greece is to be entitled to consideration at the hands of a Conference, she must necessarily take part in the struggle which precedes it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 366.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 751.)

Therapia, July 17, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of an official declaration published in the "Turquie" by the Porte, explaining its conduct at the present juncture, and the reasons which have obliged it to make war on Servia and Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 366.

Official Declaration published by Porte respecting present War.

AU moment où la Serbie, oubliant ses devoirs de vassalité envers Sa Majesté le Sultan et méconnaissant les obligations qui lui sont imposées par les Traités, cherche à envahir les provinces Ottomanes limitrophes, le Gouvernement Impérial se doit à lui-même, comme il doit aux populations placées sous le sceptre de Sa Majesté, d'exposer les motifs qui ont déterminé sa ligne de conduite dans ces graves conjectures.

Tout le monde a pu apprécier la haute valeur des privilèges et des immunités si généreusement octroyés à la Serbie par la Sublime Porte. On se souviendra également des dernières concessions que la Porte a faites à cette Principauté, après que la position de celle-ci a été réglée par un acte international. En vérité, l'histoire même de la Serbie, depuis le jour de la conquête, ne présente qu'une longue serie d'actes généreux et de faveurs souveraines accordés à cette province avec une libéralité que personne ne saurait nier. C'est ainsi que la Serbie se trouve mise en possession d'un régime tout exceptionnel, pendant que des institutions adaptées au degré de culture de sa population lui permettaient d'en tirer profit pour réaliser des progrès sérieux. Ce développement normal et régulier du bien-être de la Principauté, qui promettait les meilleurs résultats, s'arrêta tout à coup, le jour même où quelques hommes remuants et ambitieux, qui sacrifiaient à une vaine popularité les véritables intérêts de leur pays, étant arrivés au pouvoir, modifièrent, dans le sens de leurs vues personnelles, les bases fondamentales de l'ancienne constitution et laissèrent une liberté presque absolue à la presse, afin de s'emparer plus facilement de l'opinion publique, de faire naître l'agitation dans les esprits et de faire briller, aux yeux du peuple Serbe, les perspectives trompeuses d'un avenir qu'il n'avait jamais rêvé, le détournant ainsi de ses paisibles travaux, pour en faire l'instrument docile de projets téméraires et coupables. Dès le début de l'insurrection de l'Herzégovine, ces hommes ne négligèrent rien pour imprimer à leur attitude un caractère d'hostilité, que leurs vaines protestations de loyauté et de stricte neutralité n'ont pu déguiser un seul instant. Ce sont eux-mêmes qui, par leurs émissaires répandus dans les contrées voisines, ont fomenté l'insurrection, l'ont soutenue, alimentée, développée par tous les moyens moraux et matériels en leur pouvoir : ce sont eux seuls qui lui ont donné cette consistance et cette organisation dont la répression entraîne tant de ruines, fait couler tant de sang et impose tant de sacrifices. Ce sont encore ces hommes coupables qui ont fourni aux insurgés des secours en argent, des armes, des munitions, et de nombreux auxiliaires et qui, abusant sans scrupule de la situation qui était faite à leur pays par les Traités, convertissaient la Serbie, tout à la fois en un pays de rébellion et en un lieu de refuge et au centre de ralliement pour les insurgés fuyant devant nos troupes.

Il est aujourd'hui acquis que les chefs des insurgés prenaient leur mot d'ordre à Belgrade et que de nombreuses bandes, organisées dans le pays, sous les yeux des autorités, venaient attaquer nos soldats, piller et incendier nos villages, massacrer les habitants paisibles et inoffensifs, promener partout la ruine et la dévastation.

Malgré cette attitude déloyale et provocatrice, on sait quelle a été, depuis bientôt un an, la longanimité dont la Sublime Porte a fait preuve et la modération qu'elle a opposée aux agissements incessants du Gouvernement Serbe. Mais loin de rien changer à leurs déterminations, les hommes qui précipitaient ainsi la Serbie dans la voie des aventures, mettant à profit les dispositions pacifiques de la Sublime Porte, épuisaient le Trésor et les ressources du pays en armements considérables et laissaient entendre qu'ils se préparaient à prendre ouvertement une part active à l'insurrection.

Ils soutenaient ainsi les insurgés Herzégoviniens et Bosniaques par l'espérance d'une prochaine intervention armée de la Principauté.

Justement préoccupée de cette situation qui devenait de plus en plus menaçante, la

Sublime Porte ne pouvait éviter plus longtemps de diriger quelques corps d'observation sur les confins de la Serbie et du Monténégro, dans l'unique but de rassurer les populations alarmées et de mettre un terme aux incursions et aux déprédations des bandes.

Les choses en arrivèrent enfin à ce point, que le Gouvernement Impérial s'est trouvé dans la nécessité de demander officiellement à Belgrade des explications précises et catégoriques sur ces préparatifs extraordinaires et sur la concentration des troupes régulières à proximité de nos vilayets.

Dans la réponse qu'il nous a faite, le Prince Milan, pour justifier sa conduite et donner le change à l'opinion publique, s'est appliqué à intervertir les rôles et à déplacer les responsabilités, en s'élevant contre les mesures militaires que nous avions prises et qui étaient le résultat d'une situation que les actes coupables de son administration avaient déterminée.

Le Prince de Serbie a poussé l'audace plus loin. Il nous a adressé une lettre pour nous demander l'autorisation de faire entrer ses troupes en Bosnie, en vue, dit-il, de concourir à la pacification de cette province et pour nous déclarer, en dernière analyse, qu'en cas de refus, il était résolu à donner quand même suite à cette proposition. En même temps, l'Agent du Prince à Constantinople recevait mission de demander que la Serbie fût chargée de l'administration de la Bosnie, contre paiement d'un tribut annuel.

Le surlendemain de la réception de cette lettre, et sans attendre notre réponse, les Serbes envahissaient une partie de nos provinces. Le même jour, le Prince Nicolas de Monténégro, dont l'attitude envers la Sublime Porte n'avait pas été marquée au coin de la fidélité, nous télégraphiait que la situation équivoque de ses relations envers la Sublime Porte allait faire place à des hostilités déclarées.

Les deux Princes, ayant fait suivre de près leurs déclarations par des actes de rébellion ouverte, la conduite du Gouvernement Impérial était toute tracée. Il devait repousser l'agression par la force.

Signataire du Traité de Paris, qui règle la position des Principautés vassales vis-à-vis de la Cour Suzeraine, la Sublime Porte a tenu à respecter jusqu'au bout et religieusement cet acte international. Aussi, ne s'est-elle décidée à sortir des limites de la modération dans lesquelles elle s'était renfermée, que lorsqu'elle a été violemment attaquée.

En ouvrant les hostilités, le Gouvernement Serbe a perdu, *ipso facto*, les avantages qui découlaient pour lui des priviléges et immunités qui lui ont été octroyés par la Sublime Porte et garantis solennellement par le Traité de Paris. Le Prince de Serbie et le Prince de Monténégro ont repoussé, avec une obstination aveugle, les conseils de l'Europe et ils ont forfait à tous leurs engagements, à tous leurs devoirs ; ils ont voulu en appeler aux armes ; et ils doivent attendre de l'issue de cette lutte insensée le sort qu'ils se sont eux-mêmes préparé.

L'Europe entière nous rendra cette justice, que nous avons poussé la modération jusqu'à ses dernières limites. Nous l'avons fait dans l'intérêt de la paix, bien que notre attitude conciliante nous ait imposé des sacrifices considérables. Nous avions espéré jusqu'à la dernière heure que le Gouvernement Serbe et le Prince du Monténégro, mieux avisés, se rencontreraient avec nous dans la même pensée pour éviter une plus grande effusion de sang et les maux incalculables de la guerre ; qu'ils reculeraient devant la grave responsabilité de la lutte dans laquelle ils se sont précipités et dont on ne saurait prévoir les conséquences.

Mais, puisqu'il en a été autrement, forts de notre droit comme de notre conscience, et confiants dans la justice de notre cause, nous mettrons tous nos efforts à poursuivre vigoureusement la lutte qu'on vient d'engager avec nous et à tâcher de la rendre la plus courte possible. Par ce moyen, il nous sera permis de mettre, un moment plus tôt à exécution, les réformes et les améliorations que notre auguste Souverain a la ferme volonté d'introduire dans l'Empire et qui procureront à nos populations le bien-être matériel et moral qu'elles sont en droit d'attendre du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Nous sommes convaincu que tous nos sujets, sans distinction aucune, soutiendront, de leurs vœux et de leur concours, l'Empire dans la guerre qu'il a été forcé d'engager avec les ennemis de leur pays et leur repos.

No. 367.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 754.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 17, 1876.*

I AM informed that in the notification of the Austrian Government of their intention of closing the approaches to Klek, Montenegro is spoken of as an independent State.

The independence of the Principality has at all times been maintained by Russia, but most other Governments have avoided pronouncing themselves upon the point, and I am not aware whether its independence has ever before been distinctly recognized or advanced by Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 368.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 758.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 19, 1876.*

SIR A. BUCHANAN, in a telegram to your Lordship of yesterday's date, alluded to a Memorial of the Franciscans of Bosnia, declaring the unwillingness of the Roman Catholics to be annexed to Servia.

Upon that point there is a great unanimity of feeling.

This morning a Roman Catholic gentleman, much respected here, while speaking to me on the subject, declared that if the provinces in question were joined to Servia his fellow-religionists were convinced that they would be obliged immediately to leave them; and he added, in proof of what he asserted, that two of his own servants, who belonged to the districts in the neighbourhood of Montenegro, had left him, in order to join in repelling the invasion which they dreaded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 369.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 760.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 19, 1876.*

WITH reference to my previous despatches respecting the wish of the Roumanian Government for the neutralization of that part of the Danube which separates that Principality and Servia, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the correspondence that passed between the Porte and the Roumanian Agent on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 369.

General Ghika to Safvet Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Constantinople, le* $\frac{19}{31}$ *Juillet*, 1876.

IL résulte des informations reçues par mon Gouvernement que la Turquie se proposerait, au cas d'une guerre avec la Serbie, de faire remonter le Danube à ses bâtiments de guerre, soit pour croiser dans les eaux Serbo-Roumaines, soit pour attaquer la Serbie par le côté du fleuve situé entre cette Principauté et la Roumanie.

L'envoi d'une flotte de guerre dans le Danube et principalement dans la région mentionné plus haut ne laisse pas que de préoccuper vivement le Gouvernement de Son Altesse Serène le Prince Charles.

Si les eaux Serbo-Roumaines devenaient le théâtre d'une croisière ou d'hostilités effectives, il y a toute probabilité, vu l'exiguité de l'arène et la difficulté pour les belligérents de se maintenir et d'opérer en dehors de la démarcation fluviale Roumaine, que cette croisière ou ces hostilités donneraient naissance à des conflits, soulèveraient des questions de droit, occasionneraient des dommages matériels à la Roumanie, et placeraient

notre pays, si désireux de garder la plus stricte neutralité, dans une position pénible en même temps que périlleuse. De soudaines éventualités l'exposeraient à voir cette neutralité méconnue ou même violée.

Dans ces circonstances et en prévision de ces éventualités, il est d'un haut intérêt pour la Sublime Porte et pour le Gouvernement Roumain de chercher, par un commun accord, à écarter tout ce qui, de près ou de loin, serait de nature à provoquer de nouvelles complications ou à grossir les complications existantes.

Mon Gouvernement pense que le seul moyen de prévenir tout danger de ce genre et d'éviter toute aggravation de la situation, est de stipuler, dès le principe, la neutralization de la région du Danube comprise entre la Serbie et la Roumanie, c'est-à-dire entre les villes de Negotin et de Vercierova.

Grâce à cette stipulation les questions si complexes et si délicates qui, à son défaut, auraient pris naissance, seraient éludées; le Gouvernement Roumain, dispensé de recourir aux mesures onéreuses que lui imposerait le devoir de sauvegarder la neutralité, pourrait réserver et consacrer son entière vigilance à empêcher sur son territoire toute manœuvre illicite et attentatoire à la tranquillité de la rive droite du Danube, en un mot serait à même de maintenir invariable l'attitude dont le Gouvernement Impérial a en mainte occasion d'apprécier la correction constante et la parfaite loyauté.

En conséquence, j'ai l'honneur, au nom de mon Gouvernement, de solliciter de la Sublime Porte la neutralisation du Danube entre Negotin et Vercierova, et j'ose espérer que le Gouvernement Impérial s'empressera d'accueillir favorablement une demande si légitime à tous égards.

Dans l'attente d'une réponse qui me permettrait de communiquer à mon Gouvernement la décision de la Sublime Porte, je prie, &c.

(Signé) Général GHIKA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 369.

General Ghika to Safvet Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Constantinople, le* $\frac{14}{26}$ *Juillet*, 1876.

POUR faire suite à la note en date du $\frac{12}{24}$ courant, par laquelle j'ai eu l'honneur, au nom de mon Gouvernement, de solliciter du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman la neutralisation du Danube entre Negotin et Vercierova, je m'empresse de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que mon Gouvernement a obtenu de la Serbie l'assurance qu'elle n'attaquera pas l'île d'Ada-Kalé, s'abstiendra de toute opération offensive sur le Danube et se bornera, dans cette région, à une stricte défensive.

Je dois, en même temps, informer votre Excellence qu'afin d'accomplir les devoirs qui incombent à la Roumanie en qualité de pays neutre, et dans le but de sauvegarder sa neutralité, le Gouvernement Roumain a jugé nécessaire de concentrer un corps d'observation à Grovia.

En fournissant ces renseignements à votre Excellence et en vertu des instructions dont je suis muni, je prends la liberté d'insister de nouveau auprès de votre Excellence pour que le Gouvernement Impérial adhère à une proposition qui a rallié l'approbation et l'appui de MM. les Représentants des Puissances Garantes, et consente à la neutralisation du Danube entre Negotin et Vercierova.

J'ose espérer que votre Excellence voudra bien m'honorer d'une prompte réponse à ce sujet.

Je prie, &c.
(Signé) Général GHIKA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 369.

Safvet Pasha to General Ghika.

M. l'Agent, *Sublime Porte, le 8 Juillet*, 1876.

J'AI reçu les deux lettres que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser les 1er et 4 Juillet, pour demander, au nom du Gouvernement Princier, qu'en prévision de l'envoi de bâtiments de guerre dans le Danube, pour attaquer la Serbie du côté du fleuve, et des dangers que les opérations militaires éventuelles feraient courir à la rive gauche du Danube, la partie du Danube comprise entre Negotin et Vercierova soit neutralisée, afin

d'épargner au pays les difficultés d'une situation périlleuse et de lui faciliter la tâche de sauvegarder strictement son attitude de neutralité.

Le désir du Gouvernement Impérial est d'amoindrir dans la mesure du possible les maux pouvant résulter de l'insurrection de Serbie. Il ne négligera rien pour resserrer le plus possible le cercle des calamités que l'insurrection essaie de déchaîner sur d'autres parties de l'Empire, et il ne doute nullement que le Gouvernement Princier n'apprécie la situation et les nécessités que cette insurrection intérieure crée aussi bien au Gouvernement Impérial qu'au Gouvernement Princier.

La flotille qui se trouve dans le Danube aurait actuellement pour mission d'empêcher que les insurgés ne se servissent de cette voie pour se procurer des armes, des munitions de guerre, et en général, tout ce qui pourrait servir à alimenter l'insurrection et faciliter les opérations des insurgés. La Sublime Porte serait par conséquent heureuse de pouvoir compter sur le concours du Gouvernement Princier pour obtenir ce but sans être obligée de se servir de sa flotille au delà de l'embouchure du Timok. Aussi, comme le Gouvernement Princier assure qu'Ada-Kalé ne sera ni attaqué ni menacé par les Serbes, et qu'il s'engage à empêcher dans la partie du Danube qui s'étend entre l'embouchure du Timok et Verciorova tout transport d'armes, de munitions, d'équipements, d'objets pouvant servir de matériel de guerre, de volontaires, de chevaux, &c., pour le compte des Serbes, le Gouvernement Impérial, de son côté, donnera à ses navires l'ordre de ne point dépasser l'embouchure du Timok. Le Gouvernement Impérial est persuadé que cet accord permettra d'atteindre le but que le Gouvernement Princier se propose, et garantira au commerce la sécurité sur laquelle il doit pouvoir compter dans les circonstances actuelles, en plaçant la rive gauche du Danube entre les points indiqués, pour autant que cela dépendra de lui, à l'abri des épreuves de la guerre. Il va de soi que le Gouvernement Princier fournira au Gouvernement Impérial toutes les facilités nécessaires pour le transport des approvisionnements et équipements des forces qui se trouvent actuellement sur l'Ile d'Ada-Kalé.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 370.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.

(No. 761.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 19, 1876.*

THE despatch, of which the inclosed is a copy, written nine years ago by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh, is not without interest as showing how at that time a plan for placing Bosnia and the Herzegovina under the administration of the Prince of Servia was favoured in influential quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 370.

Comnenos Bey to Fuad Pasha.

Monseigneur, *St. Pétersbourg, le 25 Février, 1867.*

JE crois devoir signaler à votre Altesse que le Directeur du Département Asiatique, dont les idées ultra-Slavophiles sont connues du Ministère Impérial, poursuivant ses opinions favorites, caressait et prônait le projet de réunir la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine à une province à donner au Prince de Serbie en qualité de Pacha nommé par la Sublime Porte.

Cette mesure, prétendait-il, contribuerait à relier la Serbie à la Turquie par des liens durables et réciproquement utiles. En même temps il soutenait la nécessité d'une autonomie en faveur des Bulgares.

Revenant sur ces idées il m'a dit aujourd'hui, à titre toujours d'opinion toute personnelle, qu'il reconnait à présent que les Bulgares ne sont pas mûrs pour une autonomie. Ce qu'il désirerait pour ces populations serait l'application réelle du Hut-Hoummyoum et nommément la création de Tribunaux Chrétiens et Mixtes, et la fixation d'impôts à répartir sur les contribuables par les communautés Musulmanes et Chrétiennes, qui seraient chacune de leur côté responsables à l'autorité de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Quant à la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine, admettant l'impraticable de son premier plan, il se contenterait d'y voir prendre des mesures analogues, mais il désirerait avant tout de voir ces provinces garanties contre toute annexion à une Puissance étrangère.

Pour le Monténégro, M. de Strenvoukow croit que la Sublime Porte ferait preuve de salutaire prévoyance en lui accordant un port de mer. Ceci donnerait un essor commercial à cette population et lui enlèverait ainsi le goût forcé de brigandages et d'aventures belliqueuses.

Si je prends la liberté d'entretenir votre Altesse des idées de M. de Strenvoukow, c'est à titre d'information et parce que par sa position il fait souvent partager ses opinions par ses supérieurs.

Daignez, &c.
(Signé) CONEMENOS.

No. 371.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 762.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 19, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 743 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inclose the report of Mr. Dragoman Stavrides covering the sentences on the three officers implicated in the Salonica murders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 371.

M. Stavrides to Sir H. Elliot.

Excellence, *Le 17 Juillet, 1876.*

AINSI que j'ai eu l'honneur de l'annoncer à votre Excellence par mon rapport du 13 courant, je m'empresse de lui soumettre ci-joint une traduction de la sentence rendue par la Commission constituée *ad hoc* par le Dari Shoura pour juger la conduite tenue par les trois officiers, les nommés Salim, Reza, et Alta Bey, pendant l'événement douloureux de l'assassinat des Consuls à Salonique.

La tâche de la Commission a été certainement très difficile, attendu que d'un côté elle était pressée d'infliger des peines sévères pour satisfaire les Ambassades, et que de l'autre elle avait à travailler sur des matériaux incomplets. La délégation de Salonique d'abord et la cour-martiale ensuite, soit parce qu'elles étaient trop pressées, soit parce qu'elles avaient rencontré des obstacles insurmontables dans la panique qui s'étaient emparée des Chrétiens et dans le ressentiment et le fanatisme des Musulmans n'ont pu que laisser des lacunes regrettables dans l'enquête qu'elles étaient chargées de faire.

En effet, la conduite d'Alta Bey, Commandant de la forteresse, est, d'après mon humble avis, restée dans un nuage.

A-t-il envoyé des troupes en conformité des ordres du Gouverneur? et les douze hommes qu'il dit avoir envoyés, et que ni le Gouvernement ni le Consul Anglais n'ont vus, étaient-ils les seuls dont il pouvait disposer?

Quels étaient les ordres réels qu'ils a donnés au sergent chargé d'inviter Reza Bey de se rendre à Tophané, et quelle fut son action après l'arrivée de ce dernier?

Tous ces faits n'ont pas été suffisamment éclaircis, et cependant ils auraient puissamment contribué à mettre la conduite de cet homme dans son vrai jour.

Quant à Salim Bey, le Chef de Police, qui est resté spectateur impassible du drame qui se déroulait devant ses yeux, y a-t-il mis de la préméditation ou non? C'est encore une question qui est restée dans le domaine de doute, et c'est pourquoi la Commission, en acceptant la négative, a dû, pour ainsi dire, tourmenter la loi pour appliquer à cet officier le maximum de la peine des galères.

De même pour Reza Bey: quelle a été réellement le message qu'il a reçu par le canal du sergent? Est-il vrai, oui ou non, qu'on lui avait assuré que le Gouverneur était au Tophané, et qu'elle a été la cause véritable qui l'y a retenu pendant une demie heure? Encore y est-il réellement resté une demie heure ou moins? Tout cela est obscure, bien que l'élucidation en ait été très nécessaire.

Ceci explique l'embarras et le peu de clarté qui existent dans les considérants de la sentence rendue par la Commission.

Il est probable que Salim Bey a été un complice ou un instigateur du meurtre, mais

la culpabilité de ce chef ne va pas au delà des limites d'une grave préoccupation. Le même soupçon plane sur Alta Bey ; malheureusement, il est resté en état de soupçon, faute d'une enquête minutieuse.

En pareil état de choses, je crois que les Ambassades intéressées devraient se déclarer satisfaites, attendu que la Commission ne pouvait faire ni plus ni mieux.

En concluant, je me fais un devoir d'informer votre Excellence que ni mes collègues de l'Ambassade de France et d'Allemagne ni moi nous n'avons pris part aux délibérations de la Commission, mais nous y avons été conviés uniquement pour assister à la lecture de la décision en question.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. G. STAVRIDES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 371.

Traduction de la décision rendue par la Commission nommée *ad hoc* de la part du Dari Shoura pour reviser la sentence du Conseil de Guerre de Salonique par rapport aux trois officiers dont la conduite avait été incriminée.

NOTRE Commission ayant été chargée de la tâche d'examiner et de fixer le degré de culpabilité et de négligence des trois officiers ; les nommés Salim, Alta, et Riza Bey, soit dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions soit dans l'exécution à temps des ordres reçus à l'occasion de l'événement regrettable de Salonique ; ainsi que d'établir le degré de préjudice qui en est résulté, la nature de leurs crimes et les punitions correspondantes :

Considérant que bien qu'il soit constaté, même d'après la déclaration du Gouverneur-Général, que le susdit Salim Bey, lorsque la fille a été arrachée à la station des mains des zaptiés, s'était rendu la même nuit à une heure et demie à la Turque auprès du susdit Gouverneur et qu'il lui en avait donné avis ; cependant comme il était obligé par la nature de ses fonctions de rapporter sans aucune perte de temps au siége du Gouvernement tout événement et surtout un événement important de cette nature et que dans ce cas il a mis du retard à prévenir l'autorité supérieur ;

Considérant qu'étant chef de police il n'a point pris des mesures pour connaître au préalable les intentions pernicieuses d'un rassemblement séditieux pareil, avant que ce rassemblement ne se fût rendu devant le palais du Gouverneur ;

Considérant que lorsque ce rassemblement passant de cette dernière place à la mosquée persistait à demander la fille, Salim Bey, qui avait reçu l'ordre du Gouverneur de le disperser, au lieu de réunir autour de lui la majeure partie des gens d'armes qui se trouvaient à la résidence du Gouverneur avant que la populace ne se fût armée, et de faire réunir également auprès de lui un nombre suffisant des gens d'armes qui se trouvaient éparpillés dans la ville, en augmentant ainsi sa force afin d'exécuter l'ordre du Gouverneur jusqu'à ce que tous ses moyens de résistance fussent épuisés et anéantis ; non seulement il ne s'est pas soucié de prendre aucune mesure dans le sens indiqué, mais il n'a pas eu seulement l'air d'en prendre ;

Considérant que lorsque la populace, après l'arrivée des Consuls et du Gouverneur à la mosquée, a commencé à se livrer de plus en plus à des mouvements séditieux, en attaquant la Chambre où les sus-nommés se trouvaient, brisant les barres de fer des fenêtres, tuant les Consuls et se permettant de frapper même le Gouverneur, l'officier en question, tout en voyant cela, n'a fait aucune opposition par les armes, ni lui-même personnellement ni par le moyen de ses gens d'armes, en supposant même qu'il n'avait pas reçu un ordre à cet égard ;

Considérant que lorsqu'il a reçu l'ordre de la part du Gouverneur de surveiller les cadavres des Consuls massacrés, il n'y a point mis toute la sollicitude voulue ;

Considérant que sa faute et négligence en tout cela sont évidentes et que sa punition doit être sévère selon la loi, afin de servir d'épouvantail à ses pareils ;

Considérant que la plus grave des cinq fautes dont il est convaincu a été de ne pas avoir fait tous ses efforts lorsqu'il a reçu l'ordre du Gouverneur de disperser le rassemblement pour mettre immédiatement cet ordre en exécution en réunissant autour de lui tous les gens d'armes disponibles parmi ceux qui se trouvaient soit dans la résidence du Gouverneur soit dans les différents quartiers de la ville ;

Considérant que cette conduite n'a fait qu'encourager la populace en leur faisant connaître la faiblesse du Gouvernement, et qu'elle a eu pour résultat final celui de leur faire prendre les armes et d'assassiner les deux Consuls ;

Considérant que de ce chef il a assumé une grande responsabilité et que ses autres

fautes ne font que nécessiter l'aggravation de la punition qui lui incombe du chef de la dite responsabilité ;

Considérant que la punition doit être basée sur toutes ces causes ;

Considérant que d'après l'Article premier du Code Militaire les gens d'armes enrégimentés ainsi que leurs officiers se trouvent sous le régime de la Loi Militaire et que cependant comme nous n'y avons pas trouvé un Article applicable à la conduite du susdit officier nous avons eu recours, d'après la latitude qui nous était accordée par l'Article 5 du susdit code, au Code Criminel Civil ;

Considérant que suivant l'Article 102 de ce code l'officier subalterne faisant acte de négligence sans une cause réelle dans l'exécution des ordres qu'il reçoit de son supérieur par rapport à ses propres fonctions, est passible d'une amende égale au montant d'un mois de son salaire ; que s'il désobéit aux ordres de son supérieur il est puni par la destitution, et qu'enfin si sa négligence ou désobéissance cause un préjudice à l'Etat et au pays, il lui est appliqué en outre la punition qui est prescrite pour les personnes qui causent un tel préjudice ;

Considérant que, vu qu'il est constaté que la négligence de cet officier n'a pas eu sa source dans un esprit de désobéissance, et que par suite il est nécessaire dans la prescription de sa punition de lui appliquer les provisions contenues dans les deux premières propositions de l'Article précité ;

Considérant que pour cela on devait lui faire payer l'équivalent d'un mois de son salaire, mais que cependant d'après la provision du quatorzième Article du Code Militaire Pénal, lorsqu'il s'agit de décider sur un crime avec récours au Code Pénal Civil, dans ce cas les délits qui sont punissables, d'après le susdite code et d'après les prescriptions qui sont contenues dans l'Article 8 d'une amende pécuniaire, comportent, lorsqu'il s'agit d'un militaire, un imprisonnement de vingt-quatre heures à trois mois ;

Considérant qu'à ce compte l'officier en question devrait comme équivalent de l'amende pécuniaire être emprisonné pour l'espace de trois mois à dater de son arrestation ;

Considérant que ce qui est digne de remarque, et qui impose l'application d'une punition rigoureuse, est le préjudice qui a résulté pour l'Etat de la nonchalance des mouvements de cet officier ;

Considérant que lorsque nous venons à examiner cette question nous constatons que la conduite a contribué à donner du nerf à la sédition, et a ainsi causé le meurtre des Consuls des deux Grandes Puissances, amies anciennes de l'Empire Ottoman ;

Considérant qu'il n'y avait pas de la préméditation dans sa conduite, et qu'il n'a été lui-même ni meurtrier ni instigateur de meurtre et de rébellion, la Commission décide, vu l'Article 24 du Code Pénal Militaire, qu'on lui retire ses décorations et médailles, qu'on annule son droit à la pension, qu'on le renvoie du corps de la gendarmerie, et qu'après qu'il aura accompli ces trois mois d'emprisonnement selon ce qui a été expliqué ci-dessus, il soit mis aux galères pour le terme de quinze ans, peine qui est applicable aux meurtriers sans préméditation, et qui est le maximum de la condamnation aux galères.

La Commission ayant ensuite passé à l'examen des fautes de Rizo Bey, qui avait été condamné par la Cour Martiale de Salonique comme fautif au troisième dégré, à quarante-cinq jours d'emprisonnement, et à être mis en disponibilité pendant une année ;

Considérant que cet officier, après avoir reçu un ordre par écrit à l'effet de conduire ses soldats de marine à l'endroit du rassemblement, et après avoir débarqué ses hommes sur le quai, au lieu de se rendre à l'endroit qu'on lui avait désigné, il s'est rendu à la place de l'artillerie (Tophané) sur un avis d'Alta Bey, et qu'il y a perdu une demi-heure de temps à faire des propos qui n'avaient pas leur raison d'être ;

Considérant que le susdit officier a ainsi manqué d'abord à l'ordre du Gouverneur, et qu'en l'absence d'un ordre postérieur annulant l'ordre par écrit qu'il avait reçu, s'est rendu à Tophané sur la simple parole d'un sergent ;

Considérant qu'en pareil cas sa faute étant d'avoir annulé un ordre reçu, et cette faute étant plus grave que celle d'Alta Bey ;

Considérant que, d'après l'Article 98 du Code Pénal Militaire, celui annule un ordre reçu devant l'ennemi ou devant les rebelles armés, et celui qui contraint un autre à l'annulation d'un ordre pareil, sont passibles de la réclusion dans une forteresse de trois à dix ans ;

Considérant que la faute de cet officier est de cet nature ;

Considérant que la perte de temps qu'il a faite de la manière sus-indiqué a causé l'arrivée tardive de sa troupe au lieu de l'attroupement, et que ceci a été considéré comme une raison supplémentaire pour l'aggravation de sa peine, décide que d'après l'Article 24 ci-dessus mentionné, le sus-dit officier soit éliminé du cadre de l'armée, et qu'il soit emprisonné d'après le sus-dit Article pour l'espace de dix ans (ceci étant le maximum

de la peine de cette nature) dans une forteresse que le Gouvernement croira à propos de désigner.

Pour ce qui concerne Alta Bey, la Commission :

Considérant qu'une des fautes imputées à celui-ci est d'avoir par l'envoi d'un caporal attiré à la place d'artillerie les soldats de marine qui, sous la conduite de Riza Bey, allaient se rendre au lieu de l'attroupement, et d'avoir ainsi été la cause de l'arrivée tardive de cet officier ;

Considérant qu'il avait agi sans arrière pensée et qu'il n'avait pas connaissance que Riza Bey avait reçu un ordre par écrit du Gouvernement ;

Considérant qu'il n'avait envoyé le caporal que dans l'unique intention d'accélérer l'action de Riza Bey, et que sa faute n'est pas de nature à faire tomber sur lui une trop grande responsabilité ;

Considérant que quoique d'après le résumé des investigations faites précédemment par la Commission nommée *ad hoc* Alta Bey n'aurait pas envoyé des troupes à l'endroit du rassemblement, il n'a pas moins été établi par les informations et investigations subséquentes de la Cour Martiale, qu'il a envoyé le nombre de soldats qu'il a pu réunir ; cependant quoiqu'il ait vu l'attroupement devant la mosquée et qu'il en ait compris l'importance, non seulement il ne s'est pas rendu lui-même sur les lieux, mais il a encore mis de la nonchalance dans l'appel et l'envoi des troupes, et il n'a pas non plus insisté auprès de Riza Bey lors que celui-ci est arrivé à la place d'artillerie pour qu'il eut à se rendre à l'endroit en question ;

Considérant que cette manière d'agir le rend aussi responsable jusqu'à un certain point ;

Considérant qu'il n'y a ni dans le Code Pénal Militaire, ni dans le Code Pénal Civil aucun article qui lui soit applicable, le Tribunal, vu les procédés de cet officier, trouve à propos qu'il soit envoyé du service militaire et qu'il soit emprisonné dans une forteresse pendant l'espace de trois ans.

La commission ayant trouvé ces peines suffisantes soumet le dossier de l'affaire à votre Excellence et la prie, dans le cas qu'elle approuve l'opinion émise, de vouloir bien en informer la Sublime Porte afin qu'il y soit procédé à ce que de règle.

No. 372.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 763.)

Therapia, July 19, 1876.

My Lord,

THE accounts of the state of the Sultan's health continue to be so contradictory that I am quite unable to give your Lordship any information upon which I can rely respecting it.

I have reason to believe, however, that His Majesty's condition is more serious than would appear from the reports which I sent by the last messenger, and I am positively assured that since the death of Sultan Abdul Aziz, even Midhat Pasha has only seen him once.

The medical man continues to state that there is nothing seriously wrong, but certain whispers from persons belonging to the household are much less satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 373.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No 765.)

Therapia, July 19, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adrianople respecting atrocities in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 373.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir,

Adrianople, July 9, 1876.

DOUBTLESS your Excellency is aware of the presence in this province of Edib Effendi, charged with a conciliatory mission to Turks and Bulgarians.

I learn that this functionary has already discharged his duties, and on Monday last, the 3rd instant, he addressed a mixed audience of Mussulmans and Christians, in terms which are represented to have made little impression on the former.

I am told that he expressed to Bulgarian notables of Philippopoli his astonishment at the fact that so few atrocities were committed by his countrymen during the recent troubles, considering the great excitement produced among them by the Bulgarian movement.

What are the horrors he expected to witness it is difficult to understand.

Great complaints are made with respect to the harshness of the authorities in collecting the taxes, even in those districts which have been devastated by the Bashi-Bazouks; and the inhabitants of the village of Brestovitz, consisting of some 200 houses at the foot of the Rhodope Mountains, were, as I learn, called upon by five zaptiehs, who demanded immediate payment by the villagers of 21,000 piastres, due to the Treasury for this year's emlak (property and income tax). On the men's remonstrating that the village had been pillaged by the Pomaks, and that they were unable for the present to pay the whole amount, they were insulted by the zaptiehs, and told that they were all rebels, as they had ample means to buy shot and powder, but could no find money for the Padishah.

Several of them were then shut up in a room and beaten by one of the zaptiehs until compelled to pay the whole amount the following day.

A poor Greek rayah told me yesterday that on Monday last he and his companion purchased twenty-two okes of tobacco and other stores at Eski-Zahra for retail in Hermanly; that on the road he sold five okes, and on reaching Segmanly the Custom-house official, Souléiman Effendi, finding only seventeen okes, accused his companion of smuggling, and had him arrested, but offered to release him on payment of 6 liras, and ultimately came down to 3 liras. In vain the poor man pleaded poverty, and exhibited his license to sell; but failing to make the payment demanded he was put in irons and sent off to prison at Hankoi.

I am informed that upwards of 200 prisoners, taken up in consequence of the late troubles, have been set at liberty; but as yet not one of the respectable Bulgarians of Philippopoli, who, as I reported on a former occasion, are apprehended on the most superficial denunciations, has been released.

What is more disgraceful than this long detention in prison is the torture to which I am informed some of these innocent men are subjected, in order to compel them to make denunciations against the Bulgarian Bishops of Philippopoli and other respectable persons.

Among those arrested in Adrianople the last few days are George Kara-Michael, a man of note, and a member of the Idaré Medjliss, and Apostoli Khanoski, a member of the Medjliss-Khokiuk; both are Bulgarians.

They have been imprisoned: the former for declining to sign an address, along with others, to the Governor-General, denying the existence of disorders in this Province; as regards the latter, I do not learn the cause of his arrest.

Judicial torture, as your Excellency is aware, is a common practice in connection with judicial proceedings now going on against Bulgarian political prisoners.

I am told that a victim from whom certain revelations are desired, is either chained by the neck to the window of the prison and beaten by all comers, zaptiehs or common criminals, or is confined in a dark, narrow cell, rendering rest or sleep impossible, and where human nature seldom withstands the temptation of making confessions or disclosures, the value of which, extorted by torture, will be readily understood by enlightened minds.

I may be able to furnish your Excellency with all the details of a well-authenticated case of this nature by the sufferer himself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

No. 374.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 766.) *Thérapia, July 19, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE attention of the Porte has been so exclusively occupied by questions relating to the insurrection, and to the war with Servia and Montenegro, that administrative reform appeared to be lost sight of.

On Saturday last, however, a grand Council was summoned, composed of the principal functionaries of the Government, past and present, and some of the Ulemas, to whom the Grand Vizier exposed the critical position of the Empire asking them to express their opinion whether it was not necessary to make a complete change in the system hitherto followed.

His Highness invoked the patriotism of all present to unite in a common effort to save the country from the imminent danger with which it is threatened.

Midhat Pasha then spoke of the manner in which Turkey had, by her own fault, forfeited the support and sympathy of the Western Powers. Reforms had been repeatedly promised but not carried out, a debt of 200,000,000*l.* had been contracted and squandered, while the Porte was not even able to pay those who had advanced them the money the interest that was due to them.

It was not to be expected that those who had formerly been and were still ready to be their friends would now put any trust in fresh promises or declarations, and the only way to recover their confidence was not by words but by acts removing the grievances and disabilities under which a large number of the Sultan's subjects laboured.

A desultory discussion ensued on the possibility of departing from the principles of the Sheriat or religious law which establishes a distinction between the Mussulman and non-Mussulman, but an influential Ulemâ pointed out that the Koran itself admitted that under the pressure of circumstances such a departure was lawful, and declared that the necessity for it now existed. What was now proposed, he said, was, moreover, not the adoption of a new principle, but simply the practical application of the principle formerly recognized by the Tanzimat which had been the law, although a dead law, for the last six and thirty years.

The opposition offered was extremely feeble, and it was finally unanimously decided that the project of constitutional reform must be immediately taken into consideration.

The reforming party were, I am assured, well satisfied with the result of this Council, and with the tone which prevailed in it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 375.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 767.) *Therapia, July 20, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the official telegrams from the seat of war which have been communicated to the local newspapers during the past week.

I have, &c.

Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 375.

Official Telegrams from the Seat of War.

Télégramme adressé au Grand Vézirat par le Vali de Bosnie, en date du 12 Juillet.

LE Général de Brigade Hussein Pacha a attaqué le camp des rebelles Serbes de Soutchanitcha du côté de Novi-Bazar. Les Serbes complètement battus ont pris la fuite.

Poursuivis par les troupes Impériales pendant quatre heures, ils ont été mis dans un tel désordre qu'ils ont abandonné, pour mieux opérer leur fuite, leurs fusils, leur munitions, leurs bagages, leurs munitions de bouche, et même leurs capotes.

A la suite de cette victoire, nos troupes se sont emparées de 600 carabines et fusils à aiguille, de 300 caisses de munitions, c'est-à-dire de 150 chevaux chargés chacun de deux caisses et d'une grande quantité de vêtements militaires.

Autre Télégramme adressé au Grand-Vézir par le Vali de Bosnie, en date du 12 Juillet.

Dans les combats violents qui ont eu lieu entre Névessine et Gatchko, Sélim Pacha a complètement battu les Monténégrins et remporté sur eux une grande victoire. Sélim Pacha a fait sa jonction avec les forces de Névessine.

J'aurai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir bientôt de plus amples détails.

Télégramme adressé au Sérasliérat le 11 Juillet, par Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha, Commandant-en-chef des Forces de Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine.

Deux jours avant, les Serbes au nombre de 8,000 environ ont cherché à attaquer le Petit-Zvornik et à élever des retranchements devant cette place. Nos troupes régulières et auxiliaires ont pris l'offensive et ont bientôt forcé l'ennemi à abandonner ses retranchements et à se retirer.

L'attaque des Serbes entre Wichgrad et Novi-Bazar a été également repoussée victorieusement par nos troupes. L'ennemi a été rejeté sur le territoire Serbe.

Dans ces deux combats, nous n'avons eu que des pertes insignifiantes. Celles des Serbes sont considérables.

Une grande quantité d'armes sont tombées entre les mains de nos soldats

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Télégramme adressé le 13 Juillet au Grand-Vézir par Osman Pacha, Commandant de la Division Militaire de Widdin.

Hier (Mercredi), de très bon matin, plus de 1,000 tirailleurs Serbes se sont avancés de Zaïtchar, dans le but de nous couper notre ligne de retraite, et de nous entourer. Vers 1 heure, ces tirailleurs et l'artillerie de leurs fortifications ont commencé le feu.

Après avoir continué le feu pendant trois heures, les Serbes ont fait avancer encore, en deux colonnes, 7,000 à 8,000 hommes. J'ai fait prendre des positions pour repousser l'attaque, et après un effort énergique, nous avons mis en déroute les Serbes, qui se sont rejetés sur Zaïtchar.

Dans cette bataille, qui a duré jusqu'à 1 heure de la nuit, nous avons perdu 1 officier d'artillerie, 1 officier d'infanterie, 6 soldats morts et environ 22 blessés. Les chiffres des morts que les Serbes ont laissés sur le champ de bataille s'élève à plus de 300. Leurs blessés sont d'une nombre supérieur à ce chiffre.

Nous avons ramassé un nombre considérable de fusils et de gibernes.

Télégramme adressé au Grand-Vézir par le Mutessarif de Widdin, le 13 Juillet

Le Colonel Kérim Bey est parti Mardi, à la tête d'un bataillon, d'un détachement de troupes auxiliaires fort de 1,000 hommes et 2 canons, à la rencontre de l'ennemi qui approchait de Widdin. Comme l'ennemi était très-nombreux, le détachement de Kérim Bey a été renforcé d'un bataillon et demi et immédiatement après de deux autres. Le combat s'est engagé hier (Mercredi) et a duré jusqu'au soir. Le résultat de cette journée a été la défaite des rebelles et leur mise en fuite. Ils ont eu plus de 300 morts et nous leur avons repris les bestiaux qu'ils avaient enlevés précédemment.

Nos soldats et les troupes auxiliares n'ont eu que quelques morts et 5 à 10 blessés.

Fazli Pacha avec deux bataillons, et le Général de Brigade Ahmed Pacha avec deux autres bataillons, sont partis hier de Widdin en même temps que le Colonel Kerim Bey se dirigeait vers Tchonghoviz. Aujourd'hui ils attaqueront l'ennemi après avoir reconnu son point de ralliement.

Nous empruntons au "Journal Officiel" du Danube du 9 Juillet, les télégrammes suivants au sujet des faits d'armes du corps d'armée de Nisch :

Nisch, le 6 Juillet.

La troupe *ihtiyat* s'est battue le 4 Juillet avec les Serbes qui s'étaient fortifiés dans les villages de Zira-Bala et de Perepiz, du district d'Urkub. Les Serbes ont été délogés avec une perte de 40 hommes. Nous avons eu un mort et un blessé.

Le Sous-Gouverneur d'Urkub informe qu'un autre détachement Serbe qui a passé dans la direction de Klissoura a brûlé, ce même jour, les villages Feruk, Rassitcha, Seintché, Tchotchilé, Tchemindjé, Balavezir et Perepiz.

Nisch, le 7 Juillet.

Les Serbes ont attaqué avec des forces considérables Kourchoumlou, Urkub, Nisch, Palanka, Chehrikeuy, et nos retranchements dans le Khan Midhat Pacha, situé sur la route entre Palanka et Chehrikeuy. Avec l'aide de Dieu l'ennemi a été repoussé de tous côtés avec de grandes pertes. La plus périlleuse de ces attaques a été celle dirigée contre Palanka; mais des renforts arrivés à temps, ont permis, après un vif combat, de repousser l'ennemi et de mettre Palanka hors de danger.

Les Serbes, en dehors de leurs armes, portaient chacun en bandoulière un ou deux fusils dans l'intention de les distribuer aux Bulgares des environs de Nisch. Ces armes sont tombées entre les mains de nos soldats *ihtiyats*. C'est ainsi que dans les combats autour de Nisch les soldats *ihtiyats*, en dehors des munitions, ont pris 400 fusils à aiguille et plus de 60 capotes militaires. Ces fusils sont vendu aujourd'hui à Nisch par les *ihtiyats* à 160 piastres chacun.

Le Serdar Ekrem est attendu aujourd'hui. Aussitôt après son arrivée l'armée Impériale prendra l'offensive.

Aujourd'hui, vers 10 heures, nos soldats ont amené au camp 6 officiers et plusieurs sous-officiers et soldats Serbes faits prisonniers.

Nisch, le 7 Juillet.

Le Sous-Gouverneur d'Urkub annonce que le détachement Serbe qui a brûlé le village de Baindje, dans les défilés de Banko-Klissoura, a été attaqué hier par les soldats *ihtiyats* de Kourchoumlou et d'Urkub. Les Serbes ont subi de très grandes pertes. La troupe Turque a eu aussi 20 morts.

Nous traduisons les télégrammes suivants que le journal Turc "Vakit" vient de publier en supplément.

Télégramme adressé le 4/16 Juillet au Cémakam du Séraskérat, par le Serdar Ekrem, Abdul Kérim Pacha.

Je vous ai informé hier que Suleïman Pacha s'étant avancé, à la tête de sa division, de Chehrikeuy, sur Comanova-Baïri, devait commencer aujourd'hui son mouvement. Hier, un autre corps s'est avancé de Palanka sur les Serbes qui s'étaient fortifiés en face de Palanka.

Ce corps a engagé un vif combat avec l'ennemi qu'il a délogé de ses positions à la baïonnette et complètement battu. J'attendais des détails pour vous les transmettre. Voici la dépêche que je viens de recevoir d'Ahmed Eyoub Pacha.

"Au Ministre de la Guerre, à Sofia,

"Je m'empresse de vous annoncer qu'à la suite du combat d'hier et de l'occupation de ses positions fortifiées, l'ennemi a abandonné sans combat le Khan Midhat Pacha et ses retranchements et s'est retiré.

"Le brouillard est tellement épais qu'il nous est impossible de distinguer s'il a pris au delà d'autres positions et de reconnaître dans qu'elle situation il se trouve actuellement. Nous ne pouvons discerner non plus jusqu'à quel point s'est avancé Suleïman Pacha.

"Aussitôt que le brouillard se sera dissipé, je ferai des reconnaissances et je vous transmettrai mes informations.

(Signé) "AHMED.

"*Le 4/16 Juillet*, 1876."

Ce matin, pendant que le Grand Vézir se trouvait en correspondance télégraphique avec Abdul Kerim Pacha, à Sofia, le Serdar Ekrem a reçu et transmi au Grand Vézir les deux télégrammes suivants.

Ahmed Eyoub Pacha au Ministre de la Guerre.

Dans le combat que Hafiz Pacha, Commandant de la Division de Palanka, a livré Samedi, nous avons eu deux capitaines, un lieutenant et dix-neuf soldats tués.

Un capitaine, un lieutenant et 86 hommes ont été blessés. Parmi ces derniers, cinq ou six seulement sont gravement blessés; les autres pourront être guéris dans une quinzaine de jours.

Notre troupe a marché avec élan et courage sur la chaîne des montagnes abruptes que l'ennemi avait occupées et elle lui a enlevé en montant à l'assaut les retranchements où il se tenait.

Nous n'avons pu constater au juste les pertes des Serbes, mais leurs morts restés sur le terrain s'élèvent à plus de 100. Nous avons pris une grande quantité de capotes, de munitions et de fusils.

Suleïman Pacha est arrivé au Khan Midhat Pacha, avec 10 bataillons et 2 batteries. Hafiz Pacha conserve ses positions.

Le brouillard et la pluie continuent toujours à obscurcir l'atmosphère, de sorte qu'il nous est encore impossible de reconnaître la situation actuelle de l'ennemi.

Demain, je ferai reposer la troupe et je ferai faire des reconnaissances si le temps le permet. Je m'empresserai de vous communiquer mes informations.

Suleïman Pacha au Ministre de la Guerre.

Aujourd'hui, à 7 heures, je suis arrivé à Babina Glava. D'ennemi se trouvait dans le Khan Midhat Pacha et ses environs.

Une colonne de notre troupe de Palanka est en route venant vers nous.

Les Serbes à la suite de notre mouvement tournant, ont abandonné leurs fortifications et pris la fuite. Nos Circassiens ont atteint leur arrière garde et leur ont infligé des pertes; mais jusqu'à ce moment, nous ne connaissons pas au juste leurs pertes.

Nous leur avons pris une grande quantité de moutons, de bœufs et d'autres bestiaux avec une certaine quantité d'armes et de munitions de guerre.

J'espère entrer demain en Serbie par Pandola-Cupoussou.

Le 4/16 Juillet, 1876.

Télégramme du Gouverneur-Général de Bosnie à Son Altesse le Grand-Vézir.

Les troupes Impériales ont attaqué le fort Serbe, situé près du petit Zvornik. Le combat qui a commencé à 4 heures du matin, a duré jusqu'à une heure du soir. Les Serbes ont été contraints de se retirer. Les barques qu'ils avaient disposées pour passer sur notre territoire, ont été détruites, en même temps qu'un corps de garde Serbe situé devant cet endroit.

Une grande quantité de provisions, de bétail et de matériel est tombée entre nos mains. Les Serbes ont eu plusieurs canons démontés. Nos pertes s'élèvent à 10 morts et 23 blessés; celles des Serbes à 400 morts et blessés.

Par Ordonnance Impériale;

Les Sandjaks de Nisch et Sofia viennent d'être réunis et érigés en vilayet. Mazhar Pacha, Mutessarif de Sofia, est nommé Gouverneur-Général du nouveau vilayet et promu au rang de Vézir.

Widdin, le 18 Juillet, 2 h. soir.

Des nouvelles authentiques reçues de Nisch annoncent le mouvement offensif entrepris par les troupes Impériales. Les Serbes ont été battus dans les divers combats qui leur ont été livrés. Partout, ils ont abandonné leurs positions avec pertes, pour rentrer précipitamment en Serbie, poursuivis par le corps d'armée de Suleïman Pacha.

La division Resyanin, excessivement démoralisée à la suite de la dernière bataille, pourra à peine soutenir à Zaïtschar une nouvelle attaque qui très probablement aura lieu aujourd'hui ou demain.

Widdin, le 18 Juillet, 5 h. soir.

Suleïman Pacha, après avoir repoussé les Serbes qui fuient en désordre en Serbie, par la porte Bibina-Glava, a continué sa marche sur cette Principauté. Son armée a été

divisée en trois colonnes commandées : la droite par Hassan Pacha, la gauche par Sélam Pacha et le centre par lui-même.

Les Serbes ont été complètement défaits à Apalánka par Hafiz Pachá. Après cinq heures de combat l'ennemi a abandonné ses positions, ses morts et un grand nombre de fusils et de munitions.

Télégramme adressé au Grand-Vézir, le $\frac{5}{7}$ Juillet, par Ahméd Hamdy Pacha, Commandant-en-chef de la Division Militaire de Scutari d'Albanie.

Les Monténégrins, dans l'intention d'occuper la division de Podgoritza, sont venus nuitamment, au nombre de 3,000, aux environs de Podgoritza, sur la route de Medun. Ils avaient pour but de cerner nos cara-kols. Avisé de ce mouvement, j'ai fait marcher contre eux deux bataillons d'infanterie régulière et un détachement de troupes auxiliaires. Après un combat qui a duré plus de deux heures, les Monténégrins ont été contraints de prendre la fuite en laissant une centaine de morts et plusieurs blessés.

Notre troupe a poursuivi l'ennemi jusqu'au nahié de Pisper.

Nos pertes consistent en 2 morts et 6 hommes légèrement blessés.

Télégramme adressé le 18 Juillet au Grand-Vézir, par le Gouverneur-Général de Bosnie.

Je viens de recevoir un télégramme du Mutessarif du Banjaluka qui m'annonce que Mehmed Effendi, Major du bataillon des Rédifs de Nighdé, a marché, avec quatre compagnies de Rédifs et de soldats Ihtiyat, contre les rebelles qui ont fait apparition aux environs de Derbend. La rencontre a eu lieu à Grandina, près de la montagne Vojeyak-Dagh. Les rebelles ont pris la fuite, laissant 80 morts. Notre troupe a eu 3 morts et 4 blessés.

Le Major Mehmed Effendi est encore à la poursuite des rebelles.

Il résulte des nouvelles télégraphiques reçues hier à la Sublime Porte qu'Ahmed Hamdi Pacha, Commandant-en-chef du corps d'armée de Scutari d'Albanie, devait, aujourd'hui même, Mercredi, opérer son entrée dans le Monténégro avec des forces considérables.

Widdin, le 19 Juillet, 9 h. 59 matin.

Je ne vous ai pas télégraphié plus tôt parce que je voulais recueillir des détails exacts et vous faire connaître l'issue définitive de la bataille.

Le Général Leschyanin a attaqué hier matin le Corps d'Armée d'Osman Pacha par le flanc, renouvelant ainsi la tactique qu'il avait employée vers la fin du mois de Juin.

L'ennemi, qui disposait de 15,000 hommes, avait reçu encore un renfort de 6,000 hommes.

Un vif combat s'est engagé.

Pendant l'action, deux bataillons Serbes ont refusé de marcher, malgré les menaces des officiers exaspérés.

Le Général Leschyanin, se voyant dans l'impossibilité de continuer la lutte, a fait battre en retraite sur Zaïtschar.

Les pertes de l'ennemi sont très considérables. Les troupes Impériales se sont emparées de cinq canons, de sept chevaux, de deux caissons de munitions, et d'une grande quantité de fusils.

Les rapports arrivés ici démontrent que l'armée Serbe est très abattue.

La prise de Zaïtschar est imminente.

Widdin, le 19 Juillet, 4 h. du soir.

Une colonne Serbe, forte de 3,000 hommes, a attaqué hier (Mardi) un bataillon Ottoman à Bukovitza, localité sise à une distance de trois heures d'Adlié. Dans cet engagement les Serbes ont été totalement battus. Ils ont pris la fuite en grand désordre, laissant 250 morts sur le champ de bataille. Les troupes Impériales ont eu également quelques morts, parmi lesquels un Lieutenant-Colonel et le Mufti d'Adlié, qui assistait au combat au milieu des soldats.

Dépêche adressée à Son Altesse le Grand-Vézir, par Osman Pacha, Commandant le Corps d'Armée de Widdin, en date du $\frac{7}{19}$ Juillet.

Le 30 Juin (v. s.) les Serbes s'étaient avancés de Zaïtschar pour couper notre ligne de retraite. Aujourd'hui, Mardi, 6 Juillet, ils ont renouvelé leur tentative ; à 2½ heures ils sont sortis de Zaïtschar avec 18 bataillons pour se porter sur notre ligne de retraite, l'ennemi n'a pu résister longtemps aux attaques vigoureuses de nos troupes, et vers les 6 heures il a dû battre en retraite, en laissant entre nos mains cinq canons, deux caissons, et sept chevaux d'artillerie. La déroute des Serbes a été complète. Nous avons pris à l'ennemi des armes et des munitions de guerre en grande quantité. Le combat continue encore, et je ne manquerai pas d'informer votre Altesse du résultat de la journée pour compléter cette dépêche que j'écris sur le champ de bataille.

Télégramme adressé à Son Altesse le Grand-Vézir en date du $\frac{6}{18}$ Juillet.

Un corps de 500 miliciens Abazais, parti ce matin du village Malve, est entré en Serbie et a engagé un combat avec les Serbes du village Guenisch Nakirié qui a brûlé. Dans cet engagement les Serbes ont eu 150 morts ou blessés, et les Abazais un mort et trois blessés.

Télégramme adressé à Son Altesse le Grand-Vézir en date du $\frac{6}{18}$ Juillet.

Les habitants de Colachin ayant voulu s'emparer de 150 moutons et vaches venus hier du Monténégro ont été attaqués par les Monténégrins. Sur cela les troupes Impériales ont couru au secours des villageois. Dans le combat qui s'en est suivi les Monténégrins, outre le bétail qu'ils ont perdu, ont subi de grandes pertes et ont dû prendre la fuite. Nous avons eu en tout sept morts et seize blessés. L'heure étant avancée on n'a pu fixer le nombre des morts de l'ennemi.

Dépêche adressée au Grand-Vézir par Mehmet Ali Pacha, Commandant le Corps d'Armée de Yéni-Bazar, en date du $\frac{6}{18}$ Juillet.

Je reçois à l'instant une dépêche du Général de Brigade Moustapha Pacha m'informant qu'étant parti de Vichgrad avec deux bataillons et 500 miliciens, il est arrivé Dimanche dernier à Yéni-Varoch. D'autre part le Colonel Omer Bey, Adjoint du Commdant de Yéni-Varoch, ayant sous ses ordres un bataillon d'infanterie et 500 miliciens de Sénitza et de Piépol, s'était mis en marche Dimanche matin de Yéni-Varoch pour se rendre à Vichgrad. Ces officiers ont rencontré sur les hauteurs de Ragovina un corps de 3,000 Serbes, avec deux canons. Nos troupes, divisées en trois colonnes, ont aussitôt engagé le combat, qui a duré cinq heures. L'ennemi battu a été poursuivi jusqu'au delà de la frontière sur la rive opposée de l'Okdja. Les pertes des Serbes s'élèvent à plus de 300 morts et blessés, outre ceux qui ont été noyés dans la rivière. Nous avons fait six prisonniers, et nous avons pris un drapeau, une centaine de fusils, des pistolets et des munitions. Nous avons eu huit morts et six blessés.

Télégramme, en date du 18 Juillet, adressé au Séraskérat par le Général de Division Osman Pacha, Commandant-en-chef du Corps d'Armée de Widdin.

Ayant été informé que les Serbes avaient franchi la frontière à Florentin, aux environs de Widdin, j'ai envoyé à leur rencontre le Colonel Hassan Bey, avec un bataillon et demi d'infanterie de ligne, deux canons de montagne et 400 cavaliers Circassiens. Cette troupe, avant de se rendre à Florentin, a passé le Timok, à 3 heures en deçà du fortin de Halova, et a attaqué les Serbes qui s'y étaient réunis.

L'ennemi a été complétement battu et dispersé. Notre troupe a brûlé deux villages Serbes, et a enlevé un grand butin, consistant en bestiaux et en bagages. J'ignore encore le chiffre des pertes des Serbes. Je m'empresse d'ajouter la nouvelle de ce fait d'armes aux informations que je viens à l'instant même de vous transmettre.

No. 376.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 52. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, July* 18, 1876.

I AM assured that the inclosed, which I have obtained through an indirect source, is a true copy of a General Order recently issued by the French Rear-Admiral in this port to the Captains under his command, with a view to prevent collisions with the Turkish troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 376.

General Order issued by the French Rear-Admiral at Salonica.

LA guerre dans laquelle est engagée la Turquie, l'arrivée presque incessante à Salonique de nouvelles troupes Turques, de Bachi-Bozouks, le reveil du fanatisme Musulman qui en est la conséquence, commandent aux Européens un surcroît de réserve et de prudence pour éviter toute collision avec des bandes indisciplinées.

L'Amiral invite MM. les Commandants à faire de nouvelles recommendations à MM. les officiers permissionnaires pour qu'ils évitent de traverser les campements, et de se mêler à la foule qui les entoure.

Il renouvelle à cette occasion les dispositions de son ordre en date du 21 Mai prescrivant de ne pas circuler isolément et après la nuit close.

Pour le Contre-Amiral, Sénateur Commandant la
Division détachée dans le Levant,
(Signé) LE CHEF D'ETAT MAJOR.

No. 377.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 42.)
My Lord, *Scutari, July* 18, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, with the substance of my telegrams to his Excellency, reporting the military operations of yesterday near Podgoritza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 377.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, July* 18, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday I telegraphed to your Excellency that the blockhouse No. 1, near Podgoritza, had been molested by a cannon that had been mounted on a neighbouring height by the Montenegrins, and that consequently a Turkish force, in four separate detachments, had been sent to endeavour to drive the enemy away. I at the same time asked your Excellency for permission to proceed to Podgoritza for a few days, in order that I might make myself acquainted with that neighbourhood, and I have this morning received your Excellency's authority to do so.

This afternoon I have had the honour of telegraphing to your Excellency that the Turkish force that left Podgoritza yesterday deemed it expedient to destroy three of the koulés or blockhouses which had been brought under the fire of the Montenegrin battery, and that the Turks, in carrying out this measure, had only lost three men.

Achmed Hamdy Pasha finds that the force of regular troops under his command is barely sufficient for him to defend the long line on the southern frontiers of Montenegro, and he has repeatedly asked the Porte for reinforcements.

It appears that yesterday, whilst the Turkish troops were effecting the withdrawal of the small garrisons from the blockhouses under cover of their artillery, the Montenegrins made several most determined efforts to capture the Turkish guns, and that they consequently suffered heavy losses from the grape and canister that, from their proximity, was effectually used against them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 378.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 85. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July* 21, 1876.

IN my despatch No. 37, Confidential, dated April 4, 1876, to Sir Henry Elliot (of which a copy was inclosed in No. 26, Political), I had the honour to report the manner in which certain overtures, supposed to have been made here to the Greek Consul-General, had been met.

It appears that, not discouraged by this failure, the Prince of Servia sent secretly in April M. Garashanine, as his special Agent to Athens, but with no better result.

M. Doscos assures me that he was ignorant of this mission to his Court, but I dare say that its object was not unknown to General Ignatiew and to my Russian colleague here.

Since the commencement of the war, a Greek artillery officer of the name of Panno arrived here, and went to the head-quarters of Prince Milan, where he is, I believe, up to this moment.

This officer had been employed in the purchase of arms in Germany.

I have reason to believe that the Hellenic Government have purchased 24,000 Chassépôts rifles in Bavaria, and have likewise made an extensive command for guns from Herr Krupp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 379.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 86. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July* 22, 1876.

DESIROUS as I am to keep Her Majesty's Government regularly informed of the military intelligence from this country I have to acknowledge that I experience the greatest difficulty in forming a correct opinion of what is going on.

It would appear as if the object of the ordinary sources of information was no other in this instance than that of filling the columns of their journals with most contradictory reports of what is going on, and as the Servian War Department is very little communicative, I and my colleagues have to spend much of our time in testing the various items of intelligence which reach us in the course of the day, from more or less trustworthy sources.

Most of the engagements which acquire the proportions of battles in the newspapers have to be reduced to the proportions of unimportant skirmishes, and some of them have had no existence at all.

The military events of the past week have proved that the Servian army is unable to continue the offensive, and in the presence of the increasing Turkish reinforcements arriving from Sofia, General Tchernieff has abandoned Babina-Glava and the other Turkish positions he had held about Nisch, and has fallen back on his old head-quarters at Alexinatz.

From hence a portion of his army sallied forth to meet an approaching Turkish division, and an engagement ensued at Pandivalo on the 18th instant, which lasted till the evening, and in which Colonel Mirkovitch succeeded in repelling the enemy and making him retreat.

On the same day Colonel Leschianin, with his division reinforced by a brigade of

General Tchernaieff's army, made an attempt to drive the Turks from their intrenched positions at Veliky Izvor, a village partly burnt, which they have held in their possession since their first move towards Saitchar.

This attempt of the Servians failed, as reported in my telegram of the 20th instant, and they had to resume their former intrenched positions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

P.S.—I need hardly add that my remarks on the press apply exclusively to continental journalists and their correspondents.

W. A. W.

No. 380.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 87. Political.)

Belgrade, July 22, 1876.

My Lord,

IN consequence of the conviction that it is impossible for the Servian army to carry out an aggressive movement with any chance of success at present, the plan of the campaign has been altered, and there are to be in future two armies—one under General Tchernayeff, extending on the Timok and further on to Alexinatz; and the other on the Drina and the Ibar, under Colonel Alympitch.

In this way Colonel Leschanin is placed under General Tchernayeff's orders, and General Zach returns to the side of Prince Milan at Paratjin.

Colonel Alympitch, himself, is before Bielina in Bosnia, where his division occupies an intrenched camp before that Turkish fort, and where he repulsed with success a Turkish attack also on the 19th instant, the day on which the Turks appear to have assumed the offensive in several directions, but with no apparent result.

We have here a repetition of the experiences in the Herzegovina; both the Turks and the Serbs are not easily dislodged from good positions, and whenever either have the selection of the "terrain," they remain masters of the field.

This has enabled Osman Pasha to prevent the Servians from advancing into Bulgaria, and in the same way their advance into Bosnia has been checked at Bielina and at Novi-Bazar, but has not impeded some flying columns to make their way into the highlands.

It remains to be seen whether, with the difficulties of access into Servia, the Turkish forces will be able to penetrate speedily into the interior of this principality as the Ottoman Commanders appear to expect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 381.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.

(No. 14. Political.)

Rustchuk, July 22, 1876.

My Lord,

ON the 15th instant I received from Her Majesty's Ambassador a telegram, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, together with my reply thereto by post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 381.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Reade.

Therapia, July 15, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

IT is asserted in the English newspapers that in the district of Tatar Bazardjik the heads of murdered women and children are paraded by cartloads, and that men are sold publicly as articles of traffic.

Report to me whether you know of any such proceedings, and also if the Circassians in your vilayet continue to commit atrocities.

Inclosure 2 in No. 381.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Rustchuk, July 19, 1876.

Sir,

ON the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 15th instant, not being aware of what was alleged respecting the Tatar Bazardjik district, and although it is not in this vilayet, and distantly situated from this, I endeavoured to find some one here who might give me some reliable intelligence or opinion thereon, and I succeeded in meeting with a Bulgarian Christian who can be relied upon, and who has resided several years at the place, and who is acquainted with others who come and go between this and Tatar Bazardjik.

He told me that had the story related been true he thinks he would certainly have heard of it.

That both the parading of the heads and the selling of the men are extremely improbable for various and obvious reasons which he gave me.

He said he had, nevertheless, heard of great acts of cruelty in the district in question during the late insurrection.

He, moreover, related to me a case that he had heard of and which he knew to be a fact:—

Some Bulgarian insurgents one day seized two Mussulman women whose breasts they cut off and then put them to death.

The Mussulmans having heard of this, and having found the bodies, went off in search of the perpetrators; but not finding them, they seized a number of Bulgarian women whom they met and cut their throats over the bodies of the two murdered Mussulman women.

The story of the parading of the heads he considered possible, but highly improbable. As to the alleged sale of men, he said that was beyond all doubt untrue for various and obvious reasons.

I have just heard the affair of Chevket Pasha, at Boyadjik, on the other side of the Balkans, as related by a Prussian Engineer in the Government service here, who was close to the spot when it took place, and whose statement almost entirely agrees with that given in the "Daily News" of the 8th instant. This officer, knowing the real facts of the case, says he never was so thunderstruck as when he heard that Chevket Pasha had been decorated and promoted. He further says he saw the Commissioner sent afterwards by the Porte to investigate the matter, who said to him that the whole of the villagers had not been massacred, but only 700 (out of 1,300). The Commissioner said very little else, and appeared extremely pensive, which the engineer said he did not wonder at, from what he had found.

After this the engineer returned to Shumla in company with a high Ottoman functionary whom he did not wish to name, and who on the way and in his presence asked the zaptiehs who accompanied them if they had profited by the rising to diminish the number of Bulgarians. They replied not, as in their district everything had been quite quiet. He then said, "You ought to have done so, and you would have rendered a service to the Government."

I have given your Excellency this, having heard it from an impartial person, and who, if anything, would rather be in favour of the Porte, by whom he is employed.

As regards the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks in this vilayet, I have not of late heard much against them. We are, however, receiving very unfavourable rumours about their doings on the frontier, where it appears they are mostly now collected.

Public confidence, however, is not by any means yet re-established, as in many parts Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians are still to be found armed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 382.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 95. Political.)

Rapsan, July 21, 1876.

My Lord,

SIGNOR DURANDO, Italian Consul at Galatz, who was one of the Consular Commission last year in the Herzegovina, but who returned some time ago to his post,

has just been sent back here. He has been appointed by his Government as their Agent to the Prince of Montenegro, and has a letter of credence to deliver to His Highness, but no special instructions in that capacity.

He read me yesterday the despatch he had received from Rome, instructing him to proceed to Ragusa; to take an opportunity of delivering his letter to Prince Nikita; and to remain here to report upon the progress of events. The motive stated in this despatch for his being accredited to the Prince is simply that the existing hostilities may make it impossible for the Italian Consul at Scutari to act as the medium of communication between the Italian Government and His Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 383.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 96. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, July 21, 1876.*

IT is utterly out of my power to explain the continued inaction of the Montenegrin army. I can but give the various hypotheses current here.

The Turks say that the Montenegrins are notoriously incapable of carrying on an offensive war.

The Russians say that you cannot depend upon the Montenegrins, and that the Prince is so undecided, and so deficient in all military talent, that he is the least to be depended upon of all of them.

The Slavs say that the Montenegrins are waiting to see if the Servians can gain a victory on their side before they expose their own small force to the chance of simply sharing in a general disaster.

And the Italians say that Russia is pulling the strings, and keeping the Montenegrins back till she can see whether it is best to stop the war or to let it go on. That at this moment she may think fit to stop it, and can then with a good grace claim consideration for having "moderated" Montenegro. But if not, and if the war (as many people believe) is meant to last till next year, when Russia will be ready to take an active part in it, the Montenegrin army will be saved fresh and intact; and will have had drill enough to become a much more important factor in the final struggle.

Wassa Effendi, who is here on his way to Constantinople, says that Mostar might have been taken a week ago with ease. He thinks that it is now safe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 384.

Consul Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 8. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Corfu, July 25, 1876.*

SINCE the date of the Report which I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship on the 11th instant, the following incidents bearing a political character may be found not unworthy of your Lordship's attention:—

1. On the 15th instant an officer, represented to me as an aide-de-camp of the Prince of Montenegro, arrived here by the Austrian steamer from Brindisi, *en route* for Athens, charged with a political mission of some sort. The arrival of this personage had been already announced in a letter from a member of a secret (?) political society at Athens to an influential member of the Greek Parliament resident at Corfu, and a friend of the cause, who was warmly urged to arrange a public demonstration in honour of the expected visitor. It was, however, more wisely determined that his arrival should be kept a profound secret, and on disembarking he was forthwith conducted to a country house, some distance from the town, where he remained till the Monday following (17th), when he was embarked on board the Italian mail steamer for the Piræus; and so secretly that the fact was not discovered till late in the evening. By the mail of the following day I duly informed Mr. Wyndham of the occurrence with all details.

2. By the mail of the 18th I reported to your Lordship the arrival here of a Turkish

corvette, which was intended to remain stationary for a time in port, to act, probably, as a check on the exportation of arms, of which it is well known there is a goodly store in the place, intended for the Turkish territory. At the instigation, it is supposed, of the chiefs of the movement party, to whom the presence of the corvette was extremely obnoxious, the Nomarch was induced to address a note to the Turkish Consulate, in which he complained that the vessel encumbered the entrance to the harbour; that she interfered with the police of the port, and that, in short, her presence for so many consecutive days constituted a violation of the neutrality with which the Island of Corfu is invested; and he therefore urged her immediate departure. Unfortunately, the newly-appointed Turkish Consul-General, Wullich Effendi, had left his post on a short leave of absence, and the Consulate was left in charge of the Chancelier, a young man without much experience, and not at all equal to the occasion. In his perplexity he sent a confidential clerk with the Nomarch's letter to me, with a request that I would favour him with my opinion as to the course he ought to pursue in order to meet the emergency. As I saw at once that mischief was brewing, which it was my duty to prevent to the utmost of my power, I at once, verbally and through his messenger, suggested to him the expediency of replying to the Nomarch in guarded and conciliatory terms, at the same time deprecating the interpretation put on the object of the corvette's visit to the station, and referring the question mooted as to the position in which she was anchored to the decision of the captain of the port; and this done, I urged as the next step the propriety of telegraphing instantly to his Government to ask for suitable instructions.

The first part of my advice was followed implicitly, but not the latter part. The Chancelier did not telegraph for instructions either to Athens or Constantinople. Next day (20th instant), seeing that the corvette had not left, the Nomarch returned to the charge, and the Chancelier allowed himself to be drawn into a correspondence on the question of neutrality, in which, from his entire ignorance of the subject, he had the worst of it. This, afterwards, I learnt from Wullich Effendi, who returned to Corfu a day or two later, and who lost no time after his arrival in telegraphing for instructions.

Two days later, after taking a supply of water and provisions on board, the corvette left on a cruise to the northward, but this without any reference whatever to the wishes or orders of the Nomarch, who, however, I am told, thinks quite the contrary; but how far the claim of neutral rights thus put forward affects the rights of Turkish ships of war to station themselves at Corfu for a longer or a shorter period, will have now to be determined by authority, and as soon as I am made acquainted with the tenor of the answer Wullich Effendi receives from his Government, I shall beg to be allowed to return to the subject.

3. Meanwhile, under the idea of the fancied impunity which this neutrality confers, every effort is being used by the party of action to get up disturbances in Epirus, and, unless checked in time, mischief is likely to come of it. As in all police cases prevention is better than cure, infinitely better.

We have in the place a regularly accredited revolutionary agent from Epirus, and, since last week, an agent from Chimara, more to be dreaded than all the rest put together.

My "Intelligence Department" does not slumber, but I neither have, nor can have any powers of counteraction.

4. Yesterday a startling effect was produced in the place by the arrival of a Russian Prince and General Gortchakow, whether or not the great diplomatist I have so far been unable to discover. He went on by the Italian steamer to Athens, after having made a short excursion as far as the King's country palace, with its beautiful grounds.

5. All sorts of idle rumours, meant to be alarming, are being industriously put in circulation. The most recent relates to the immediate arrival of Sir Garnet Wolseley at Corfu to inspect the barrack accommodation in the forts preparatory to the arrival of 35,000 British and Italian troops, intended to act, need being, in Epirus!

There is no *canard* so gross that the good people of Corfu do not clutch at it with eagerness.

I see, not without dismay, the excessive length to which this despatch has run. I can only throw myself on your Lordship's kind indulgence, and with the highest respect, I am, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 385.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 501. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 26, 1876.*

MR. ABEL, a correspondent of the "Morning Post," who passed through Vienna a fortnight ago on his way to Widdin, called at the Embassy yesterday and stated that he had returned to give the following information to the Turkish Ambassador and myself.

Mr. Abel says that he knows positively that arms and men, said to be Russians, daily pass through Wallachia with the knowledge and the sanction of the Roumanian Government, and embarking in steamers on the Danube above the point to which the Turks do not send gun-boats, according to an agreement with the Government at Bucharest, land in Servia and join the army.

Mr. Abel believes that 150 to 200 men thus pass daily into Servia.

I have thought it right to communicate this statement to Mr. St. John by a telegram *en clair*, observing that if it be true, the Porte may be expected to take preventive measures.

Mr. Abel also said that he was present at a battle which took place between Widdin and the Timok on the 18th instant, when the Turkish troops were victorious, and took five guns, the loss of the Servians being estimated at 2,000 men.

He said that the Turkish troops are well disciplined, but that no signal success has been yet obtained in consequence of their numbers being inconsiderable, and no efficient system of spies, telegraph and éclaireurs having yet been organized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 386.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 502. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 26, 1876.*

HAVING had some conversation lately with a gentleman, who ought to be well acquainted with the views of Count Andrassy and the Austro-Hungarian Government, I endeavoured to ascertain from him whether any plan has resulted from the meeting at Reichstadt as to the policy to be pursued in the event of the existing war ending favourably for Turkey, or in the alternative of the Servians succeeding in their attempts to occupy Bosnia, and to excite a second insurrection in Bulgaria.

My informant evaded giving me direct answers to my questions, but I concluded from his observations that, if the Turks are victorious, Count Andrassy hopes that his note will be made the basis of the arrangements which may be adopted, and that in the other event, it will be attempted to establish an administrative system in the insurgent provinces, similar to that in Crete.

I gathered, however, further from what he said, that in either case it is intended that Bulgaria should be included in any new administrative system of the Turkish European provinces, which may be recommended to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 387.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 504.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 26, 1876.*

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch No. 496 of the 22nd instant, I am informed by Baron Hofmann that the Turkish protest against the closing of Klek was delivered the day before yesterday, and that it contains no statement of the grounds on which the Porte maintains that it can claim a right of free ingress to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 388.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 506.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 26, 1876.*

WITH reference to Sir Henry Elliot's despatch respecting the Sultan's health, I understand that the reports received by the Government here represent His Majesty to be suffering from *delirium tremens*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 389.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 589. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 27, 1876.*

PRINCE YPSILANTI, the Greek Minister here, called upon me yesterday, and after reminding me that he had told me some days before that M. Contostavlos, the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Athens, had directed him to communicate confidentially with me, and request me to report what he said to Her Majesty's Government, he proceeded to speak in some detail of the position of Greece, and of the views and wishes of the Greek Government.

Greece had, he said, of late years, made every endeavour, not merely to act with perfect correctness towards Turkey, but to be on cordial and friendly terms with the Porte.

It could hardly be affirmed that the Porte had responded to these endeavours by considerate and conciliatory conduct towards Greece. Nevertheless, the Greek Government had not allowed the difficulties in which Turkey was now involved to make any change in their policy.

They had not only, in deference to the wishes of the Great Powers, observed strict neutrality, but had exercised the influence they possessed over Ottoman subjects of their own race, to maintain tranquillity in the neighbouring Provinces of Turkey. They had done this in the hope that, by entitling Greece to the sympathy and support of the Powers, they should better consult the future interest of the country than by risking a premature movement.

It must not, however, be forgotten that the King of Greece and his Ministers had great difficulties to contend with at home in persevering in this policy. It was impossible for the Greeks not to be strongly excited by the struggle which was going on between the Porte and the Christians in Turkey. It was not easy to convince them that Greece, by holding aloof from the struggle, would not lose the chance of obtaining in the final settlement advantages for herself and for the kindred race in Turkey. A general apprehension prevailed that the pacific policy of the Greek Government would simply facilitate a solution of the Eastern question, which would tend to give the Slav races in Turkey a preponderance over the Greek race. Such being the case, the Greek Government must earnestly hope that their task would be facilitated by the Great Powers, and that it would be made immediately apparent that their policy was producing good fruits for their country.

On the previous occasion on which he had spoken to me Prince Ypsilanti had observed that, for the satisfaction of public opinion in Greece, it would be absolutely necessary that any reforms and privileges which were conceded to the Herzegovinians or other Ottoman subjects who had been in rebellion, should be extended to the Greek inhabitants of Thessaly and Epirus, who had remained quiet.

He did not revert to this yesterday, but spoke rather of matters actually in question at this moment.

He first mentioned the difficulties and delays interposed by the Porte with regard to the naturalization question. If I understood him rightly, he conceived that all other points had been settled, but that the Porte positively refused to insert a clause insuring to Greece a participation in advantages which might hereafter be granted to any other Power by a relaxation of the law of 1869. This he thought the more unreasonable because the Turkish Government had not hitherto relaxed the law in favour of any Power, and, of course, would always have the choice of relaxing it or not, as they thought proper. But, on the other hand, it was, in the opinion of the Greek Government, essential to Greece

that her right to stand on exactly the same footing as the other Powers of Europe should be established by such a clause.

Prince Ypsilanti went on to say that the Porte had not only showed a want of friendly feeling in the naturalization question, but had recently announced a measure which would be fraught with disastrous consequences for Greece. It had declared its intention to establish colonies of Circassians on the Greek frontier. Recent events had shown plainly enough the uncivilized and ferocious character of these hordes. Their presence on the frontier would be intolerable; it would frustrate all endeavours to suppress brigandage; it would be incompatible with security and tranquillity in the neighbouring provinces.

There was, moreover, another point of view from which the introduction of Mussulman colonies into Thessaly and Epirus must be viewed by the Greek Government. Of course, that Government, while desirous of living on good terms with the Turkish Empire while it lasted, could not shut their eyes to the probability that the Ottoman rule in Europe would sooner or later cease. They were bound to consider the effect that such an event would have upon the future of their country and their race. They could not see with indifference endeavours on the part of the Porte to introduce a new Mussulman population into the provinces bordering on Greece, and thus to change the proportion between the Greek Christian and the Mahommedan population.

Lastly, Prince Ypsilanti mentioned a matter to which he said his Government attached much importance. They desired, he told me, that the Greek Minister should be admitted to the meetings of the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople. These Representatives were, he said, in the habit of meeting, in an informal way, to communicate to each other the news they received, to talk matters over, and to exchange ideas on the course to be pursued. There was nothing official in these meetings. They had no resemblance to formal Conferences. No record of the proceedings was kept. No resolutions were adopted. In fact, the diplomatists present merely conversed familiarly. It was difficult, therefore, to conceive that the admission of the Greek Minister could give rise to any inconvenience. On the other hand, he would often be able to give his colleagues valuable information. He received early intelligence of what was passing in Turkey, and had peculiar advantages for ascertaining the feelings of a large part of the Christian population in Turkey, and it might be added for exercising a salutory influence over them. An instance of this had occurred when the Consuls were murdered at Salonica. The Greek Minister had received the first intelligence of the event; and Prince Ypsilanti would not hesitate to say that Greek influence had been mainly instrumental in maintaining tranquillity among the Christians after it had occurred. Yet the Greek Minister was not invited to take part in the meeting on the subject, which had been held by the Representatives of other Powers at Constantinople.

Prince Ypsilanti proceeded to say that intelligence had been received by telegraph from St. Petersburgh that the Russian Government was willing that the Greek Representative should, in future, be invited to the meetings in question. The Greek Government earnestly hoped that Her Majesty's Government would be equally disposed to comply with their wish on the subject.

Finally, Prince Ypsilanti said that he had spoken to me in pursuance of a request from M. Contostavlos, and with the sanction of his Sovereign; that he begged me to communicate what he had said to your Lordship, and that he should be much gratified if I should be authorized to make known to him the views of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 390.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 590. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 28, 1876.*

IN my immediately preceding despatch, No. 591 of yesterday, I had the honour to report to your Lordship a conversation in which Prince Ypsilanti, the Greek Minister here, begged me to communicate to Her Majesty's Government the views and wishes of the Greek Government with regard to the present crisis in the Levant.

This morning the Duc Decazes told me that Prince Ypsilanti had expressed to him, on the part of the Greek Government, a desire that Greece might be represented in any

Conference which might be held by the Great Powers to effect a settlement of the Eastern question.

The Duc Decazes said that he had observed to Prince Ypsilanti that the communication was somewhat premature, as no Conference of the kind had yet been proposed. He added that he had, moreover, pointed out to Prince Ypsilanti that the position of Greece with regard to the Great Powers did not warrant her pretending to a seat in a Conference held by them, and had recommended that the pretension should not be put forward.

The Duc Decazes said, moreover, that Prince Ypsilanti had urged that the Greek Minister at Constantinople should be invited to take part in the unofficial meetings of the Representatives of the Great Powers at that capital. The Duke had, he told me, answered that he did not very well know what these meetings were; that no doubt the French Ambassador met his colleagues and talked over matters with them; but that the French Government could hardly prescribe to him which of his colleagues he should converse with. It was, he had said, a question of personal relations and convenience, respecting which it did not seem easy to lay down a rule.

The Duke proceeded to tell me that Prince Ypsilanti had urged that the Russian Government had already sent instructions to General Ignatiew to admit the Greek Representative to these meetings. The Prince had also, the Duke said, stated that the wishes of the Greek Government in this respect had been made known to the Government of Her Majesty.

The Duke expressed a wish to learn the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

In answer to a fear expressed by Prince Ypsilanti that Greece might prove a loser instead of a gainer by the pacific attitude she had maintained in deference to the counsels of the Great Powers, the Duke had, he told me, said that undoubtedly the Powers would bear in mind the correct conduct of Greece, and would be disposed to recompense it if the occasion presented itself, provided of course that Greece persevered to the end in that conduct; otherwise, she would necessarily forfeit all title to the consideration of the Powers. As to a claim put forward by Prince Ypsilanti that Greece should share in any advantages which might be obtained by Servia, the Duke had, he said, simply observed that all that Servia appeared to have gained hitherto had been hard blows.

It is perhaps right that I should mention that Prince Ypsilanti, in the conversation I had with him yesterday, spoke of the desire of Greece to take part in any eventual Conference of the Powers for the settlement of the Eastern question. But he asked me not to include this in the representation he was begging me to make to Her Majesty's Government, because this particular question had, he said, been already brought before them in a suitable form.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 391.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, July 29, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informed me, on the 24th instant, that the Porte had denied intention to establish Circassian Colonies in Provinces bordering upon Greece.

Irritation which had been caused here by the report that such measure was intended has subsided for the present.

I addressed your Lordship on this matter in my despatch No. 185 of the 25th instant, and which should reach your Lordship next week.

No. 392.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Therapia, July 29, 1876.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador tells me that question between his Government and the Porte respecting Klek is settled.

As regards complaint against the Turkish ships of war for firing upon insurgents

from what are termed neutral waters, Austrain Government accept explanation that a commander could not see his countrymen in danger of being cut to pieces without giving them assistance.

Austrian Government also consent that unarmed transports should go (to) Klek to remove stores from ship which is at present too much loaded to put to sea, and allows her to carry away the garrison.

The stores may be taken to mouth of Narenta to be carried in country boats up river to Nevesigné.

I understand, however, that in spite of this arrangement, the Porte maintains its protest aginst the closing of the port.

No. 393.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 70.)

Foreign Office, July 29, 1876.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have learnt, with much satisfaction from your reports, the decision of the Hellenic Government to observe a policy of neutrality with regard to the present contest between the Ottoman Government and the insurgent Provinces of Turkey.

I have to instruct you to take an early opportunity of informing the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government much appreciate the pacific attitude which Greece has maintained, a course which they believe to be no less conducive to the interests and welfare of Greece than to those of Europe, and which they trust she will continue to follow.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 394.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July 30.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 29 *Juillet,* 1876.

DIFFERENTES déclarations des Ministres Anglais et le langage tenu ici par Sir Henry Elliot semblent indiquer que le Gouvernement Anglais serait disposé à favoriser une action médiatrice, et qu'il ne serait pas même éloigné d'en prendre, le cas échéant, l'initiative. J'appelle sur ce point l'attention très-sérieuse de votre Excellence. Dès l'origine des événements actuels, les . . . . . leurs assurances fallacieuses, notre confiance dans l'efficacité des conseils des Puissances . . . . . les embarras intérieurs de l'Empire ont fait qu'au moment où ils essayaient d'envahir nos Provinces, les troupes Impériales ne se trouvaient guère en mesure de prendre elles-mêmes l'offensive. Ce fait prouve de quel côté était la préméditation, et ce qu'il faut penser du cercle de fer dont on accusait la Turquie d'entourer les deux Principautés. Dans les premiers jours de la lutte, nos généraux durent donc se borner à faire échouer le plan offensif de leurs adversaires. Ce résultat a heureusement été obtenu; et dans cet intervalle le Gouvernement Impérial, au prix de sacrifices dont la grandeur répond à la gravité de la situation, est parvenu à compléter ses forces, et à les mettre à même de commencer les opérations offensives. Quelques jours, quelques heures peut-être, nous séparent encore du moment où les armées Ottomanes pourront mettre à néant les bandes que l'intrigue et la révolution ont déchaînées sur notre territoire.

Or, qu'adviendrait-il si, à ce moment même, une action médiatrice quelconque venait arrêter la main qui doit châtier la rébellion, et soustraire les coupables à la responsabilité qu'ils ont encourue? L'effet d'une telle action serait des plus déplorables, aussi bien au point de vue moral qu'au point de vue matériel. De quelque précaution qu'elle fût entourée, elle ne manquerait pas de mettre sur la même ligne les rebelles et l'autorité légitime; et, en même temps qu'elle frapperait celle-ci d'un discrédit complet aux yeux de tout le monde, elle encouragerait les exigences les plus téméraires, les projets les plus coupables chez nos adversaires, et rendrait les difficultés actuelles réellement inextricables. J'exprime une conviction générale chez nos hommes d'Etat qu'une médiation en ce moment devrait être considérée comme une négation de l'autorité Impériale et comme une atteinte irréparable à nos droits.

L'opinion publique n'envisage pas ce point autrement. En accédant à la proposition de médiation, le Gouvernement Impérial serait immédiatement accusé d'avoir prodigué l'or et le sang de la nation pour aboutir à une humiliation nationale, et il serait fortement à craindre que la Sublime Porte ne se trouvât dans l'impossibilité de réprimer le désordre moral et matériel qui pourrait s'ensuivre. Si, au contraire, le Gouvernement Impérial repoussait la proposition de médiation nos adversaires ne manqueraient pas de tirer profit d'une situation qui nous placerait en opposition de vue avec les Puissances, et de nous représenter comme le seul obstacle au rétablissement de la tranquillité. Dans les deux cas, la situation est modifiée à notre grand préjudice, et le seul moyen de prévenir des conséquences directes serait d'empêcher que la proposition de médiation ne vînt à prendre consistance. Nous ne doutons pas que ces considérations, auxquelles vous aurez soin de donner les développements qu'elles comportent frapperont, le Gouvernement Anglais.

La Turquie ne demande pas à être sauvée. Elle saurait trouver en elle-même les moyens de son salut. Elle demande qu'on lui laisse sa liberté d'action qui en est la condition indispensable; et la Sublime Porte ne peut croire que ce serait précisément l'Angleterre qui se laisserait entraîner à des démarches aussi contraires aux intérêts de l'Empire qu'au principe de non-intervention.

No. 395.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, July* 30, 1876.

MR. FREEMAN telegraphs that Turks have been defeated at Plana; five guns lost. Selim Pasha killed. Osman Pasha and 300 men taken prisoners.

Two battalions have left this for Mostar.

No. 396.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 53. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July* 18, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a report which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, relative to the dispatch of further reinforcements to Mitrovitza; and to the military operations on the Servian and Montenegrin borders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 396.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, July* 18, 1876.

MORE troops—five battalions, about 4,200 men, and two batteries of Horse Artillery, Krupp guns—have been dispatched from here to Mitrovitza by special trains between the 13th and 16th instant.

Yesterday five more battalions arrived here; two of them were dispatched in the course of the same day to Mitrovitza; and the remainder will be sent there to-day and to-morrow.

Another Government transport arrived here this morning from Constantinople with 1,000 volunteers and two batteries of mountain guns on board, which are being landed for conveyance to Mitrovitza to-morrow.

Ali Saib Pasha, ex-Minister for War, and recently appointed to the command-in-chief of the army at Mitrovitza, also arrived here in the same transport, and leaves by this afternoon's special train for Mitrovitza.

He tells me that his command already consists of twenty-five battalions of regular troops, six batteries of artillery, and a large force of Albanian volunteers.

The "Poushidéi Sheriff" (Prophet's Quilt) was brought here by Sunday's boat from

Constantinople; and was landed this morning under salutes from the town forts, and the Ottoman ships of war in port. All these ships were dressed.

With the exception of the Russian gun-boat, which dressed, none of the foreign ships of war, although previously advised by the Ottoman Admiral, took part in the demonstrations of public respect and reverence with which this sacred emblem of the Mahomedans was landed and received.

All the Ottoman authorities, in uniform, were at the landing stage, attended by two battalions of Infantry, the men presenting arms as the emblem was landed. It will be sent to the front, evidently with the object of exciting the martial and religious feelings of the troops.

The latest news from the frontier (at least those received by the authorities here) are all in favour of the Ottoman troops.

Mehmed Ali Pasha, at Sienitza, has succeeded in preventing the junction of the Montenegrins and Servians.

Ahmet Hamdi Pasha, with his division at Seutari, prevents the concentration on the border of large forces of the Montenegrins, by "la petite guerre," a sort of warfare in which the Albanian volunteers, by whom he is actively supported, eminently excel.

The division at Novi-bazaar (or in Turkish "Yeni-bazaar"), acting in concert with the troops at Mitrovitza has kept at bay General Zach, who evidently has been trying to seize the railway terminus at the latter place. Generally, the Turkish troops all along the frontier from Nish to Yeni-bazaar and Sienitza have acted on the defensive, wishing to gain time to get up their reinforcements and supplies. This system appears to have been most advantageous to the Turks, and injurious to the Servians. Every day has added considerably to the number of the former in regulars and volunteers; and from all I hear they are now in sufficient force to make a forward movement with every probability of success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 397.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 26. Political.)

Bosna Serai, July 18, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch of the 14th July, which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, regarding the encounter which lately took place at Zalom between the Turks and Montenegrins, and the agitation which prevailed at Mostar.

In a private letter to me, written subsequently to the despatch, at the moment of the departure of the post, Mr. Freeman informs me that he had heard that the main force of the Montenegrins which was in Baniani had returned to Cettigné, for the protection of their country on the side of Albania. If this be the case, and the war is vigorously carried on from that quarter, I think the Turks will be able to hold their own in the Herzegovina until their reinforcements arrive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 397.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Mostar, July 14, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the 11th instant the Ferik Selim Pasha, while proceeding with two battalions of troops from Gatchko to Nevessin, was attacked and surrounded by a Montenegrin force, probably about 3,000 strong, not far from the village Zalom. At the same time an attack was made on this latter place to prevent the garrison stationed there from proceeding to the relief of Selim Pasha. This move caused great consternation here, as it seemed to indicate an intention on the part of the Montenegrins to advance on Mostar. The Ferik Ali Pasha immediately started for Nevessin, two battalions were ordered from Stolatz to join him there, and an attempt was made to send forward a body of Bashi-Bazouks from Mostar. The inhabitants of this

town, however, resolutely refused to march. During two days' fighting was kept up between the force under Selim Pasha and the Montenegrins, as well as between the Montenegrins and the battalion stationed at Zalom, and on the second day all the Mussulmans of the town of Nevissin capable of bearing arms marched out and endeavoured to create a diversion in favour of the troops. They were led by the Cadi in person, a man much respected for his uprightness of character both by Christians and Mussulmans, but he was unfortunately one of the first to fall. The Montenegrins were, however, finally repulsed, and Selim Pasha succeeded in reaching Zalom.

This affair is talked of by the authorities as a brilliant victory for the Turks, the Montenegrins being dispersed on every side with immense loss, while the former had only thirteen men killed, of which two officers. There is no doubt the troops maintained their position during two days' hard fighting with great bravery, but I believe Selim Pasha only extricated his force from a perilous situation with great difficulty and heavy loss.

It is also reported that the Montenegrins and insurgents are collecting in considerable numbers in the vicinity of Hutovo, probably with the intent of intercepting the communications with Klek and Gabella. The weakening of the garrison of Stolatz by the transfer of two battalions to Nevissin will greatly facilitate any such attempt. The fact is the amount of troops at present in the Herzegovina is quite inadequate to the necessities of the moment. After the successful victualling of Nichsich Moukhtar Pasha dispatched twelve battalions to Bosnia. One of them returned here yesterday, attenuated by fatigue, having during the last ten days marched from Gatchko to Focha, thence to Serajevo, and now down to Mostar. It is said the men require at least a week's repose before they can be considered available for active service. Three battalions also arrived about ten days ago at Klek, but they have been told off to strengthen some of the weaker garrisons in different parts of the country. Consequently, at the present moment no reserve force exists, and it would be found exceedingly difficult to concentrate 5,000 men on any one point for an offensive movement.

I regret to have to report that on the morning of the 12th instant this town was nearly being the scene of a fanatical explosion on the part of the Mussulmans. A Christian who was starting for the country, and consequently armed, is said to have threatened a Turk with his pistol. The Mussulmans flew to arms, and promenaded the town in groups, in a state of great excitement; every shop was instantly closed, and the Christians sought refuge in their houses. As the day advanced the agitation calmed down, without the occurrence of any serious incident. Again to-day an exactly similar scene was enacted; but this time it was caused by some Mussulmans, on leaving the mosque after attending afternoon prayer, exclaiming that the "Ghilmours" were coming, probably alluding to the anticipated advance of the Montenegrins. By an unlucky coincidence about the same moment a Christian peasant was caught bringing a horse-load of ammunition and four pistols into the town. At the moment I write the shops are still closed, and excitement is at its highest. Unfortunately the Vali, Ali Pasha, of whom in many respects it is impossible to speak too highly, and who would, no doubt, under other circumstances, and in other places, prove an excellent Governor, is not possessed of sufficient energy and courage to curb the turbulent Moslem spirits of the Herzegovina, and all the chief military authorities being absent, there is no guarantee for the preservation of public order. A great many of the respectable Christian families of this town have lately sought safety in Austria, and the result of these constant panics will doubtless be a still further migration.

A certain rich Mussulman proprietor named Kara Bey Muftich, who was exiled from the Herzegovina about a year ago as being, to a great extent, by his arbitrary proceedings, the cause of the existing insurrection in this province, returned here yesterday by permission of the Porte. He is a man of considerable natural intelligence, and has great influence over his co-religionists, and although a Conservative in the strictest sense of the word, and doggedly opposed to all reforms and innovations, especially as regards the relations between the landed proprietors and the peasants, he is not a religious fanatic, and it is thought that his presence here is likely to check the commission of any excesses against the Christians by the native Mahommedans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDW. B. FREEMAN.

No. 398.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 27. Political.)

Bosna-Seraï, July 21, 1876.

My Lord,

SINCE the receipt of Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman's last despatch No. 8 of 14th July, inclosed in my No. 26, Political, of the 18th instant, I have received telegraphic information from that gentleman that the Montenegrins and insurgents are now encamped in considerable numbers near Nevissine. A fight occurred there on the 17th, in which, I was informed by the Governor-General here, the powder magazine of the Montenegrins was blown up, and which caused their withdrawal from the attack. They do not appear to have repeated the assault, but remain in the vicinity. Moukhtar Pasha is assembling what troops he can to attempt to dislodge them, and a battle may shortly be expected. There is naturally great alarm and agitation at Mostar, and many of the most wealthy and respectable Christian families have left the place.

Mr. Freeman has also telegraphed to me that the Austrians have closed the port of Klek. This must prove, to say the least of it, most inconvenient to the Turks. The policy of Austria appears to me incomprehensible and inconsistent. Austria, I believe, has never recognized the independence of Montenegro, and, therefore, the declaration of war by that vassal State is only an extension of the insurrection, and ought not to affect in any way the relations of Austria with Turkey. Austria has always professed friendship for Turkey, and a great desire to put an end to the insurrection; nevertheless, since its commencement, her authorities in Dalmatia have done everything in their power to aid and advance it; and now, when it becomes much more serious, she endeavours to cripple Turkey by closing the port of Klek. If it was not judged expedient to do so in the beginning of these affairs, what reason can there be advanced for doing so now? It seems impossible to understand what is the real policy of Austria. It is generally believed that it is vitally important to her that the Turks should be able to put down this insurrection, now extended to Servia and Montenegro, and yet she appears from the commencement to have persistently embarrassed Turkey by every means in her power, and encouraged her adversaries. Public opinion explains all this as the pitiful result of a weak, timid, and divided Government, and I believe the explanation to be perfectly true.

With regard to the war with Servia, nearly twenty days have passed since the commencement of hostilities, and it is difficult to ascertain that she has been successful in any of the encounters which have taken place. Telegraphic despatches from all parts of the Bosniac frontier, from Belina to Novi-Bazar, announce the discomfiture of the Servians in almost every affair that has occurred. The Turks are receiving reinforcements every day, and it is expected that they will soon be strong enough to engage in a decisive battle near Nisch. Until the Servians are beaten there, I do not think there will be any serious attempt at an invasion from the Bosniac frontier, as the troops are only sufficient for defensive operations. This city is perfectly tranquil, and neither the people nor authorities seem to entertain any doubt as to the result of the war with Servia. There is, however, a certain uneasiness with regard to Montenegro, on account of the paucity of troops in the Herzegovina, and the difficulty of receiving reinforcements, now that the port of Klek is closed, but there does not appear to be much alarm.

Yesterday, news was received here that the intrenchments made by the Servians at Ratcha, at the angle of the confluence of the Drina with the Save, on Turkish territory, had been taken by the Turks under Mustapha Pasha, a Polish officer, and that the enemy had been completely dislodged and defeated, with a loss of four guns.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 399.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 31.)

(No. 115.)

Buda-Pest, July 22, 1876.

Sir,

IN view of the complications which may arise in consequence of the present state of the Eastern question, I beg your Excellency's permission to refer briefly to the actual position of the Magyar nationality in the Empire.

A glance at an ethnographical map, constructed on the principle of a majority line, will show, if only the territory with a compact majority be regarded, a central geographical position for a compact 5,000,000 Magyars, surrounded on the west by 4,500,000 Germans; on the north-west 3,000,000 Czechs, edged with another 1,000,000 of Germans on their north-west; on the north-north-west by 3,000,000 of Slovaks; on the north to north-east by a short 3,000,000 of Poles, and then 3,000,000 of Ruthenes; on the east and south-east by 3,000,000 of Wallachs, with an "island" of 500,000 Szeklers (Hungarian), and on the south and south-west by 3,000,000 of Croats, with nearly 2,000,000 of other Slavs. There are other Germans, Magyars, and Slavs scattered throughout each territory of these compact numbers, for, in the whole Empire, there are over 10,000,000 Germans, 6,500,000 Hungarians, and 16,000,000 Slavs.

It follows from these data of compact territories of each nationality that, numerically considered, the Magyars are of equal importance with the Germans, whilst no Slav race is of such equal importance, unless the Czechs and Slovaks in the north-west be united. The Poles and Ruthenes in the north-east are too antipathetic to be regarded as one political unit, whilst the Croats are separated from adjoining Slavs by religion or local jealousies and interests. As a matter of culture, political and otherwise, the Germans and Magyars surpass all other races, and only the Czechs of the Slav races approach them.

If, moreover, Cis-Leithania and Trans-Leithania be similarly examined, it will be found that the ratios of each nationality would be grouped as follows:—

In Cis-Leithania.	Per cent.
North Slavs	48
Germans	35½
South Slavs	8½
Italians	3
Other races	5
	100

In Trans-Leithania.	Per cent.
Hungarians	38½
Wallachs	17½
North Slavs	16
Germans	12½
South Slavs	10½
Other races	5
	100

Hence, whereas the Hungarians (Magyars and Szeklers) preponderate in the lands of the Hungarian Crown, the Germans are on Austrian lands outnumbered by the north Slavs alone, and are in a considerable minority against the Slavs combined. Or, from another point of view, the Slavs constitute more than half of Cis-Leithania, whereas in Trans-Leithania, they form little more than one-quarter of the whole population. But, in both halves of the Empire, the ruling nationality holds about the same relative position to the aggregate of the other races. Moreover, it is claimed that in Trans-Leithania the Hungarian Germans can for the most part be relied upon to act with the ruling Magyars in an anti-Slav policy, whereas in Cis-Leithania the ruling Germans are not so supported.

From these ratios of each nationality to the others, may be inferred the expediency of dualism, the possible danger to the Empire of increasing the number of Slavs, and the reasonableness of the Hungarian opposition to Slav annexation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 400.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 31.)

(No. 117. Confidential.)

Buda-Pest, July 23, 1876.

Sir,

MY Prussian colleague informs me that it is known in Vienna that the petition of the Bosnian Catholics to the Porte, expressing a preference for annexation to this Empire rather than to Servia, is the result of an Austrian intrigue and the work of the Austrian Consul in Bosnia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 401.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 31.)

(No. 118. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pest, July 24, 1876.*

IN a remote corner of his political heart Count Andrassy is supposed by some of his Hungarian observers to hide a not unnatural desire to be conspicuous in history as having added to the greatness of the Empire, and, consequently, to cherish a little hankering after a little annexation. But, on the other hand, it is believed or hoped that his Hungarian sympathies and his knowledge of the danger of an overwhelming number of Slavs within, or under the protection of the Empire, will suffice to restrain him, should he have enough faith in himself to believe in the wisdom of such a policy.

However this may be, the idea has for some days been prevalent here that Austria-Hungary will intervene in Servia and occupy at least Belgrade, even if the Turks should fight their way to that capital. As such an occupation could be represented as punitive, it would be more difficult for Hungary to protest against it, or to avert the results which might follow from such a beginning of a policy of action, inasmuch as Hungary, as I have had the honour to report to your Excellency, is, although as opposed as ever to any annexation of Slavs, as anxious as ever to see Servia chastised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 402.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 97. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, July 23, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 92 of the 19th instant, respecting the manner in which the Montenegrins who entered Austrian territory in the recent skirmish at Klek have been dealt with by the authorities here, I have now the honour to report that the Turkish prisoners, who had been consigned to the care of the Turkish Consul-General, have been sent by the same authorities to Klagenfurt.

Danish Effendi told me yesterday that, during his absence at Gravosa on the previous day, a gendarme came to the Consulate, claimed the men, and took them away. No written, but simply a verbal, demand was made for their re-delivery to Austrian custody; but the Cavass, who had charge of them, of course made no difficulty about their going.

Danish Effendi has addressed a note to the Prefect (Capitano Distrittuale), calling his attention to the irregular character of the transaction; but that authority, a most excellent well-meaning man, is so afraid of irritating Slav susceptibilities, that he is not likely to give my colleague much satisfaction.

I have been questioned on all sides as to my opinion of the legality of the action of the Austrian Government in sending to Cettigné the Montenegrin combatants who entered Austrian territory after the skirmish near Klek. Even the most uncompromising Slavophils who have spoken to me on the subject, seem surprised at the light in which the Austrians regard their obligations as neutrals, and are anxious to know my views.

With the exception, however, of the remarks which I made in the first instance to General Jovanovics, and which I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 90 of the 15th instant, I have given no opinion whatever. I have excused myself by distinctly saying that the doctrine of benevolent neutrality, which finds favour with so influential a school of modern jurists, appears to me to involve (when once accepted by a Government) so many and such large departures from the prescriptions of that common sense which I regard, perhaps erroneously, as the real foundation of the law of nations, that it would require a special casuistical training, such as I have not enjoyed, to enable me to appreciate it in the manner which its professors maintain that it deserves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 403.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 98. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, July 23, 1876.*

THERE is no news of importance from the invading Montenegrin army; but I am assured that a lively polemic is being waged between Prince Nikita and M. Yonine; and that the latter ridicules the obstacles which His Highness assigns for his inaction. These obstacles are understood to be the difficulties presented by the mountainous country round Mostar.

M. Yonine's language to me is of the same purport; but I am not at all clear that the discussion is not another act of the comedy which the Russians and Montenegrins have all along been playing.

On the southern frontier of Montenegro it is said that a Turkish attack is anticipated, and that hard fighting may be expected there in a day or two. My own opinion is that the Turks in Albania are not strong enough for an offensive movement against the Montenegrins and the disaffected tribes of the contiguous hill country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 404.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 510.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 27, 1876.*

THE writer of an article in this day's "Freie Presse" learns with pleasure from the English Blue Book, that Count Andrassy considers the Russian proposals for making Bosnia and Herzegovina into States like Servia, as unacceptable.

But the article adds that, though Austrian policy has hitherto not been quite so subservient to that of Russia, as was feared, a change may have taken place since the Reichstadt interview, for a leading article in a frequently inspired paper says, that the idea of annexation exists among the people, and that patriotic feelings should not allow such a current of public opinion to pass without consideration.

With reference to these speculations, and the views of the Servian Government, a telegraphic report of an article in yesterday's "Pester Lloyd" states, that latterly a suspicion had become general that the destructive policy of Russia, aiming at new combinations in the East, would be supported by other Cabinets, a suspicion which has been entertained, not in spite, but in consequence of, the understanding arrived at, at Reichstadt; but it is not to be believed that it can be intended here to follow a course opposed to the wishes of the people of Austria-Hungary; and one thing is certain, that the people of this monarchy will repudiate, in the most decided manner, an oriental policy of revolution, experiment, and adventure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 405.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 513. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 27, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 510 of this date, reporting the language of some leading journals here on the possible annexation of Bosnia to Austro-Hungary, I have the honour to add that as the "Pester Lloyd" continues to repudiate the expediency of such a measure it may be presumed that Count Andrassy has not changed his views upon it. That the question should be discussed as an open one in the Austrian press has, however, attracted some attention, and one of my colleagues is of opinion that the journals have received encouragement from some influential quarter; and that it is not an impossible eventuality, if Count Andrassy maintains the views he has hitherto expressed upon it, that he may be obliged to resign.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 406.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 514.)
My Lord, *Vienna, July 27, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 504 of yesterday, the Turkish Ambassador informs me that the Porte did not adopt his suggestion respecting the grounds on which it claims a right of free access to the Gulf of Klek, as it was deemed expedient merely to reserve their right for the present, and to postpone discussion on the subject until quieter times.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 407.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 330.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 29, 1876.*

I SEE from Sir Henry Elliot's telegram to your Lordship of the 14th instant, that the German and French Ambassadors have expressed themselves satisfied with the sentences passed on the officers implicated in the Salonica murder, and since then the Governor-General has also been sentenced to a year's imprisonment.

The German Government still require, however, a written promise on the part of the Porte that he will never be employed again.

The German Ambassador at Constantinople reports that the Turkish Government are trying to evade the payment of the sum of money demanded by the German and French Governments for the widows of the murdered Consuls.

Prince Bismarck has in consequence telegraphed to his Excellency to remind the Porte that the German Government expect the money to be paid by the 4th of August before 12 o'clock, and will admit of no further excuse or delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 408.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 31.)

Sir, *Admiralty, July 28, 1876.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Earl of Derby, extract from a letter received from Captain H. E. G. Earle of Her Majesty's ship "Research," respecting the state of affairs at Salonica.

This information was forwarded by the Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, who reported having taken some of the squadron under his command for a cruise, returning to Besika Bay.

My Lords have informed Vice-Admiral Drummond that they approve of his having done this, and that he is to continue to take the squadron to sea from time to time for three days, leaving a ship at Besika Bay to keep up communications.

I am, &c.
(Signed) VERNON LUSHINGTON.

Inclosure in No. 408.

Captain Earle to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.) *"Research," Salonica, July 9, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report, in confirmation of my telegrams, that the German ironclad fleet left Salonica on 2nd July, and returned to this anchorage again 5th instant. Their object in leaving seems to have been for a cruise of exercise simply, as it appears they touched at no ports. During their absence their despatch vessel "Pommerania" kept steam up and her cable shortened in as if ready to leave at a moment's notice, to communicate with the fleet, should any telegrams or important news arrive for them.

As regards the political affairs of Salonica, I have to report that the French and German Naval Commanders still continue to be unsatisfied with the trials lately taken place, and the sentences passed thereat on the persons implicated in the murder of their Consuls, both nations requiring that the then Governor and Chief of Police should be severely punished.

Daily telegrams from the interior report success of the Turks against the Servians, but it is very doubtful whether there is any truth in them, for at 2 p.m. of the 7th instant the Governor received a telegram from the interior which induced him to despatch immediately to the interior, by rail, the only remaining battalion of troops here, an unlikely contingency if so victorious as represented.

I have not thought it desirable to forward these telegrams, as you are probably in receipt of much more accurate information, and at an earlier date from Constantinople.

The Turks here are very elated at their reported successes, and the Beys have subscribed sums varying from 100*l.* to 800*l.* each to the Government in aid of the war expenses, the first instalment of which subscription, viz., 5,000*l.*, left Salonica for Constantinople last week.

On Friday night the Governor received another telegram, which induced him to send to the interior the marines who were sent here during the late massacres to preserve the peace, thus leaving Salonica to the protection of sixty police only.

Large quantities of flour are being daily forwarded to Mitrovitza, the inland terminus of the railway from Salonica.

No. 409.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July .)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 30, 1876, 11·40 P.M.*

The following is the substance of a report from Mr. Baring received this evening:—

"In the district of Genk 500 cattle and horses had been carried off by Circassians. At a village at the foot of the Balkans women had been outraged but the place had been saved from being sacked by the Mudir and a person in charge of the Mosque. The village of Devent, consisting of 800 houses, had been entirely burnt, the inhabitants having at the beginning of the insurrection murdered the Turkish police and thrown up fortifications. At the place where the forty girls were said to have been burnt in a barn, no one knew anything of the story, which Mr. Baring believed to be a pure invention. Many women were stated to have been outraged and robbed by Bashi-Bazouks, but he could not discover that any had been killed. At another village the inhabitants said that at the beginning of the insurrection the priest and the schoolmaster told them that the Russians were advancing and that they must leave their village or the Turks would kill them, and those who objected were driven out by force. The Mussulmans who happened to be there, differently estimated at twelve and thirty-two, were murdered and the village was then set on fire. The Mussulmans of the neighbourhood seeing part of the village in flames went down and pillaged and burnt the remaining houses. Large quantities of cattle and sheep are in the hands of the authorities, who are making arrangements to ascertain the owners; but Mr. Baring says the villagers are afraid to go to make their claims as the Mussulmans are all armed and they are not. Two hundred prisoners at Philippopoli have been released within the last few days, and more are to be released immediately."

No. 410.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 419.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 31, 1876.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 330, Very Confidential, of the 19th instant, giving an account of a conversation which you had had with Prince Gortchakow upon the question of the excesses in Bulgaria, and the nature of the language attributed to Sir H. Elliot upon the Eastern question, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which your Excellency held to the Russian Chancellor upon that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 411.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31, 12·42 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 31, 1876, 11 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 28th instant, the Grand Vizier assures me that the Porte has never entertained the intention of making Circassian colonies (!) in Thessaly and Epirus.

No. 412.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, July 31, 1876.*

REMAINDER of Moukhtar Pasha's army retreated to Trebigné. Turkish loss said to be more than 2,000 men, including many notables of Mostar; two Generals, three Colonels, and six Majors missing. Baggage, ammunition, and every other lost. Montenegrin loss about 500. Enemy is returning in two columns towards Mostar. Great discouragement there.

No. 413.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 31, 1876, 3·15 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's wish that Mr. Baring should pursue his inquiries to the north of the Balkans. Comparatively few excesses were alleged there; and as it is a different province, I must procure fresh recommendations to the authorities.

No. 414.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 496.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 31, 1876.*

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram which he had received from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, deprecating any proposal at the present moment for mediation in the war between Turkey, Servia and Montenegro, the declarations of the British Ministers and the language held by your Excellency having led the Porte to believe that Her Majesty's Government would be inclined to favour such a course, or even to take the initiative in it, if the opportunity presented itself.

The telegram stated that, in consequence of the assurances they had received, and of the confidence they felt in the action of the Powers, the Turkish Government were not prepared to take the offensive at the moment when hostilities broke out. During the first days of the conflict, therefore, the Turkish Generals were compelled to act on the defensive. The Turkish Government had now succeeded, by sacrifices, the importance of which corresponded with the gravity of the situation, in completing their forces and putting them on a footing to commence offensive operations, and a few days, or even hours perhaps, might witness the annihilation of the bands which intrigue and revolution had let loose on their frontier.

If at this moment a proposal for mediation were to be started, it would have a most deplorable effect both from a material and moral point of view. However cautiously made it would inevitably have the result of placing the rebels and the legitimate authority on an equal footing, and would completely discredit the latter in the eyes of the whole world; it would encourage the wildest aspirations and most culpable designs and would render the present difficulties really inextricable. Safvet Pasha added that it was the general conviction of Turkish Statesmen—a conviction supported by public opinion in their country—that mediation at this moment could only be considered as a negation of the Imperial authority, and as inflicting an irreparable injury on the Sultan's rights. If the Porte were to agree to the proposal of mediation, they would be at once accused of having wasted the blood and treasure of the country for no result but a national humiliation, and it was to

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be feared that they might find themselves unable to repress the disorders which might ensue. If, on the contrary, the Turkish Government were to reject the proposal, their adversaries would at once take advantage of a situation which would place them in opposition to the Powers, and would represent them as offering the sole obstacle to the re-establishment of tranquillity. In either case the state of affairs would be altered greatly to the prejudice of Turkey, and the only method of preventing such consequences seemed to be to prevent the proposal of mediation assuming any consistency.

Turkey, Safvet Pasha went on to assert, did not ask to be saved. She could find in herself the means of her preservation. All she asked for was that she should be left her liberty of action, and the Porte could not believe that England would be the country to allow herself to be led into a step equally contrary to the interests of the Turkish Empire and to the principle of non-intervention.

I said to Musurus Pasha in reply that, without giving any assurances as to the future, which it seemed to me that it would be premature to do, I could authorize him to inform his Government that no proposals for mediation had as yet either originated with Her Majesty's Govetnment or been suggested to them by other Powers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.